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ABSTRACT

The Administrative Software Clearinghouse on the campus of Memphis State University (Tennessee) receives software designed for use in school administration from publishers and prepares a one-page evaluation to be distributed to principals in Tennessee. This booklet accumulates those evaluations for software rated as "good" or "excellent" in 15 categories. The software categories and the number of programs in each category are: Attendance (5); Business Management (6); Classroom Management (13); Database (12); Grade Reporting (2); Integrated Software (2); Library Management (3); Personnel Management (1); Property Management (4); Scheduling (5); Spreadsheet (1); Transportation (1); Utilities (5); Word Processing (15); and Other (an early childhood system) (1). Each evaluation gives the publisher's name and address; the software equipment requirements, costs, capabilities, and strengths and weaknesses; and an overall summary and rating. (Author/RP)

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ADMINISTRATIVE SOFTWARE EVALUATIONS FOR SCHOOLS

Department of Educational Administration and Supervision

Memphis State University

Edited by Thomas C. Valesky, Frank W. Markus, and Theodore J. Meyers

IR012888

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ADMINISTRATIVE SOFTWARE EVALUATIONS FOR SCHOOLS

from the

Tennessee Administrative

Software Clearinghouse

edited by

Thomas C. Valesky

Frank W. Markus

Theodore J. Meyers

Educational Administration and Supervision Department

Memphis State University

1986

Beginning in Fall of 1983, the Tennessee State Department of Education began funding several centers to evaluate software for schools. The Administrative Software Clearinghouse was established on the campus of Memphis State University. Since its inception, the Administrative Software Clearinghouse has evaluated over 150 programs. Of these, 76 were judged to be acceptable for adoption, and the evaluations for these programs are included in this booklet.

Each program was rigorously evaluated by at least three evaluators. A summary of these evaluations was then written into the format included here. At the bottom left of most of the evaluations is included a rating of the program: three asterisks [***] is a rating of "GOOD" and four asterisks [****] is a rating of "EXCELLENT". Some of the earlier evaluations were not rated on a scale such as this, and therefore, do not include an asterisk rating. However, a careful comparison of these programs revealed that they were of at least a "GOOD" rating.

The reader will notice that there are two different formats included throughout this booklet. In the Fall of 1985, the Administrative Software Clearinghouse changed its written evaluation to a more narrative format to make it more readable. Nevertheless, either format will provide the reader sufficient information to determine whether or not the software program will meet his or her application needs.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TYPE	SOFTWARE	COMPANY	RATED	PAGE
ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT PACKAGE	MPS SOFTWARE	###	1
	CDI ATTENDANCE PLUS	CREATIVE DATA INC	###	2
	MECC DAILY ATTENDANCE	MINN. EDUCAT'L COMPUTING CORP.	###	3
	MMS ATTENDANCE/APPLE CP/M	COMPUTER RESOURCES, INC.	###	4
	MMS CLASS CUTS/TRS-80	COMPUTER RESOURCES, INC.	###	5
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	BPI BUSINESS BUILDER	BPI SYSTEMS	###	6
	BUDGET TRAC	BEAR COMPUTERS, INC.	###	7
	BURSAR	ADDISON-WESLEY PUB. CO.	###	8
	DAC-EASY ACCOUNTING	DAC SOFTWARE, INC.	###	9
	MECC ACTIVITY ACCOUNTANT	MINN. EDUCAT'L COMPUTING CORP.	####	10
	PURCHASE (APPLE)	ADDISON-WESLEY PUB. CO.	###	11
CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT	APPLE GRADE BOOK	J & S SOFTWARE	###	12
	CLASSFILE	TEACH YOURSELF BY COMPUTER SOFT	###	13
	EA GRADEBOOK	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INC.	###	14
	GIANT CACTUS GRADE BOOK, THE	CACTUSPLOT COMPANY	###	15
	GRADE BOOK	THOROBRED SOFTWARE	###	16
	GRADE SYSTEM, THE	CMA MICRO COMPUTER DIVISION	###	17
	GRADEBOOK	K-12 MICROMEDIA, INC.	###	18
	GRADEBOOK PLUS (E.M.A.)	E.M.A. INC.	####	19
	NCS MICROTEST SCORE II	NATIONAL COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.	###	20
	QUIZ WRITER	MIDWEST AGRIBUSINESS SERVICES	###	21
	TEACHER'S QUIZ DESIGNER	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES	####	22
	TEST-WRITER	TEACH YOURSELF BY COMPUTER SOFT	###	23
	TESTMASTER	MIDWEST SOFTWARE	###	24
DATABASE	ACCUMULATOR JR.	SOUTHERN MICRO SYSTEMS	###	25
	DB MASTER	STONEWARE, INC.	###	26
	MAGIC MAILER	ARTSCI, INC.	####	27
	MAGIC MEMORY	ARTSCI, INC.	###	28
	MAILING LIST	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INC.	###	29
	MECC STUDENT RECORDS	MINN. EDUCAT'L COMPUTING CORP.	####	30
	MMS MASTER FILE/APPLE CP/M	COMPUTER RESOURCES, INC.	###	31
	MMS MASTER FILE/TRS-80	COMPUTER RESOURCES, INC.	###	31
	PFS FILE	SOFTWARE PUBLISHING CORPORATION	###	32
	PFS REPORT	SOFTWARE PUBLISHING CORPORATION	###	33
	QBASE	APPLIED SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY	###	34
	REVELATION	COSMOS, INC.	####	35
	VERSAFORM	APPLIED SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY	####	36
GRADE REPORTING	GRADE REPORTING	UNICOM	####	37
	MMS GRADE REPORTING/TRS-80	COMPUTER RESOURCES, INC.	###	38
INTEGRATED SOFTWARE	SCHOOL OFFICE MANAGER (APPLE)	INTELLECTUAL SOFTWARE	###	39
	SCHOOL OFFICE MANAGER (IBM)	INTELLECTUAL SOFTWARE	###	39
	T/MAKER	T/MAKER	###	40
LIBRARY MANAGEMENT	AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS INVENTORY	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INC.	###	41
	CARD CAT	COMPU-TATIONS, INC.	###	42
	SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN, THE	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INC.	###	43
PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	TESANA	BOR-VEN COMPUTER SERVICE, INC.	###	44
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT INVENTORY	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INC.	###	45
	ENERGY MONITOR	ADDISON-WESLEY PUB. CO.	###	46

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TYPE	SOFTWARE	COMPANY	RATED	PAGE
	EQUIP	ADDISON-WESLEY PUB. CO.	###	47
	MECC ENERGY MANAGER	MINN. EDUCAT'L COMPUTING CORP.	###	48
SCHEDULING	CLASS SCHEDULING	CMA MICRO COMPUTER DIVISION	###	49
	CLASSIFIER, THE	MOUNT CASTOR INDUSTRIES	###	50
	HARTS III	HARTS SYSTEMS LTD.	###	51
	KNOWCONFLICTS	BEAR COMPUTERS, INC.	###	52
	MMS SCHEDULING/APPLE CP/M	COMPUTER RESOURCES, INC.	###	53
SPREADSHEET	MAGICALC	ARTSCI, INC.	###	54
TRANSPORTATION	MECC BUS ROUTES	MINN. EDUCAT'L COMPUTING CORP.	####	55
UTILITIES	FASTBACK	FIFTH GENERATION SYSTEMS	###	56
	KEEPTRACK	FINDT GROUP, THE	###	57
	MEDDLE PRUF	MICROCOMPUTER WKSHPS COURSEWARE	###	58
	UTIL	MICROCOMPUTER WKSHPS COURSEWARE	###	59
	WINDOWS	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	###	60
WORD PROCESSING	ELECTRIC POET	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES	####	61
	FONTASY	PROSOFT	####	62
	GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT	SENSIBLE SOFTWARE, INC.	####	63
	HOMEWORD	SOUTH-WESTERN PUBLISHING CO.	####	64
	HOMEWORD SPELLER	SOUTH-WESTERN PUBLISHING CO.	####	65
	MAGIC SLATE	SUNBURST COMMUNICATIONS	####	66
	MAGIC WINDOW II	ARTSCI, INC.	###	67
	MAGIC WORDS	ARTSCI, INC.	####	68
	NEWSROOM, THE	SPRINGBOARD SOFTWARE, INC.	###	69
	POWERTEXT	BEAMAN PORTER, INC.	###	70
	PRINTMASTER	UNISON WORLD INCORPORATED	####	71
	REFERENCE SET	REFERENCE SOFTWARE	###	72
	TURBOLIGHTNING	BORLAND INTERNATIONAL	####	73
	V-SPELL	COMPUVIEW PRODUCTS, INC.	###	74
	WORDPERFECT	SSI SOFTWARE	####	75
Z OTHER	PROJECT MEMPHIS	EASTER SEAL SYSTEMS	####	76

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: April 1985

Title Attendance Management Package Version 3.0 Copyright Date 1983

Producer/Address MPS Software, 1707 N. Glenwood Unit 3, Muncie, Ind. 47304

Cost $500.00 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Administrators

Purpose/Applications of Package Attendance accounting and reporting.

Evaluated on Apple IIe Also available for Apple II plus with 64K

Required Hardware 64K; one disk drive; printer Required Software program complete

Product Capacities Approximately 2,000 students; unlimited data disks formated by vendor.

Service Support Installation assistance, inservice, documentation and software updates, telephone consultation at owner's expense.

Description of Product Outputs Meets all Tennessee state level report requirements plus local district/building level customized reports.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
		X		Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
X				Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
X				Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
	X			Editing capabilities for each field
		X		Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
X				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
		X		Freedom from technical problems
				Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths A relatively easy to learn and use software package that is tailored to do exactly what you want.

Major Weaknesses Requires set up by vendor; vendor also must format new data disks (at no charge). Several routines have no escape feature which requires user to reboot.

Other Comments

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.
***Rating

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: September 1984

Title CDI Attendance Plus Version Copyright Date 1984

Producer/Address Creative Data Inc., P.O. Box 1492 Collegedale, TN 37315

Cost $495.00 Medium of Transfer Disk Intended Audience School Administration

Purpose/Applications of Package Management of School Attendance Records

Evaluated on TRS-80 Model IV and 4P Also available for TRS-80 Mod III; Apple IIe

Required Hardware 48 K; 1 drive; printer Required Software Package complete

Product Capacities 450 records per disk; up to 1500 students use floppy - over 1500 recommend hard disk; maximum students = 3000; 90 homerooms with 60 students for 190 days.

Service Support None specifically stated except software updates and telephone hotline upon registration.

Description of Product Outputs Student lists; Daily Absentee list; inidividual student records; homeroom reports; summary by grade or school; year-to-date summary; any combination of user-defined sorts and reports. Reports provide totals and percentages.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
			X	Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions **
	X			Capacity for intended applications
			X	Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
		X		Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	X			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Straightforward - easy to learn and use; user-friendly; excellent options for user-defined reports.

Major Weaknesses No password protection; no service support stated in documentation; poor index and no help section; no option for user defined fields, yet evaluators detected no real need but would be nice; does not account for classes cut by students.

Other Comments Faye Humbard, Jefferson County High School (615-397-3182) is very satisfied with this program. She states that it meets all reporting needs. This program is recommended for adoption in Tennessee schools.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

**Incorrect data may be entered, such as the same student number for more than one student. Program will not fail to operate. It will simply output incorrect data.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: December 1985

Title: MECC Student Daily Attendance Version: 1.0 Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: MECC, 3490 Lexington Ave. North, St. Paul, MN 55112

Cost: $495.00 ($695.00 for Hard Disk Version) Intended Audience: School Administrators

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: IBM PC

Required Hardware: 64 K, 80-column card, 2 disk drives (3 or 4 optional), 132-column printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This program provides an automated system of daily student attendance on an individual student basis. It requires the use of the MECC Student Records program from which it uses student demographic information is extracted. 725 students are permitted per data disk--larger schools may split the records on separate disks or purchase the hard disk version which supports 5000 students. Data on absences may be entered by homerooms, student identification numbers, absence codes, or other user-defined codes. Data is easily edited or changed at a later date. A good variety of school reports are available, including absences by homeroom, daily absences with parents' name and phone number, students with specified type of absences, students with excessive absences/tardies, and form letters to parents. Four year-end reports listing aggregate school data on an ADM and ADA basis are available by grade, county/residence code, FTE percentage and enrollment status.

Major Strengths: The integration with MECC Student Records lessens the amount of initial data entry. Also, the program is compatible with 2 major card readers (HEI 121-4 and Chatsworth OMR 500) and 2 major scanners (NCS Sentry 3000 and Scan-Tron 1200) which simplifies the entry of absence data. Data entry for absences is also easy via the keyboard when entered by homeroom since the program will list all students in a particular homeroom. Finally, the compatibility of writing form letters to parents is a nice feature for which the program will add tardy and absence information at the bottom of the letter.

Major Weaknesses: The year-end reports are designed to comply with the Minnesota State Department of Education requirements. These reports do not include ADA on a period-by-period basis as required by secondary schools in Tennessee.

Other Comments: For users intending to perform several types of transactions at one sitting, for instance, entering absences and printing a variety of reports, 4 disk drives are recommended to avoid an inordinate amount of disk swapping. Version 2.0 is now available--MECC indicates that it includes some enhancements in its reporting procedures.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: G	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: F	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning and usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: G		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: July 1985

Title: MMS Attendance Reporting System Copyright Date: 1982

Producer/Address: Computer Resources, Inc., Barrington Mall
Barrington, NH 03825

Cost: $449 Intended Audience: School Administrators

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: TRS-80 Models III and IV, IBM MSDOS, and CPM - 80.

Required Hardware/Software: The MMS Master File, 64K Apple with CP/M version 2.23 or greater, 2 or 3 disk drives, 132 column printer.

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This program provides attendance records on the students in the MMS Master File. Two program disks and documentation are provided. 475 students maximum per grade level, 204 single or double sessions (no daily period attendance), 50 user-defined attendance codes, and 8 entry/withdrawal codes. Outputs include daily attendance by category of absence. Entry/withdrawal/reentry reports, attendance register for any specified period, and statistical matrices by month for any period. Statistics include Average Daily Attendance, Average Daily Membership, and percent of attendance.

Major Strengths: Comprehensive documentation provided. Variety of user-defined reports sorted through the MMS Master File or the Attendance program. Data input is easy if ID numbers are known. Program is integrated with an optical mark reader (Scantron fully integrated or NCS Sentry 3000 if special chip purchased) for ease of data input. Its integration with the Master File prevents the user from needing to reenter student bibliographic data.

Major Weaknesses: This program does not report daily attendance by class period. The user must know the first and last student ID numbers in any particular sort in order to print. Attendance must be entered by student ID number.

Other Comments: Three other options may be purchased separately with this program: 1) an attendance letter for $149, 2) an automatic phone call option, which costs $449 and includes necessary hardware, and 3) an optical mark reader interface card for $249.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: G	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: July 1985

Title: MMS Class Cuts

Copyright Date: 1981

Producer/Address: Computer Resources, Inc., Barrington Mall
Barrington, NH 03825

Cost: $349

Intended Audience: School Administrators

Evaluated on: TRS-80 Model III and IV

Also available for: Apple CP/M, IBM PC, and CP/M-80

Required Hardware: MMS Master File, CPM 2.23 or greater (CP/M version only), 3 disk drives, 132 column printer.

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This program provides attendance reporting period by period. Although the documentation claims that 600 students per grade level are permitted, the Master File only handles 475 students, therefore, it is unlikely that more than 475 students per grade level may be handled efficiently by the Class Cuts program. Outputs include print outs sorted by student or by teacher, using selection criteria such as start/stop dates, maximum number of cuts, and types of cuts. In addition, there are 5 user-defined codes available for cut codes.

Major Strengths: Data entry is easy. There is a good selection of user-defined reports available. This program is compatible with the Scantron Optical Mark Reader, and with the purchase of an additional chip, it can be compatible with the NCS Sentry 3000 scanner.

Major Weaknesses: As with the other MMS programs, sorting must be completed on the data diskettes through the MMS Master File, and all subsequent reports are based on a particular sort. Re-sorting through the Master File is somewhat cumbersome and time-consuming.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: F	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: F
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: F
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: BPI Business Builder Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: BPI Systems Inc., 3001 Bee Cave Rd., Austin, TX 78746

Cost: $795 Intended Audience: Accounting Users

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200 Also available for: MS - DOS machines, Apple II series, and TRS 80 Model 4.

Required Hardware: 256 K, two disk drives

Purpose: This is the center module for the BPI Accounting Series. This module contains an extremely powerful and easy to use general ledger which frees the user from much of the details involved with dual entry accounting. The account structure, however, is rigidly controlled by the program so the user is limited to a certain degree by the way in which account numbers are set up. Account number for the general ledger are limited to 4 digits (no alphabetic characters) within specified ranges. The program also contains a payroll/check writing module, an accounts receiveable module, and an accounts payable module. Approximately 8,000 accounts are available in the following areas: (each with a maximum of 2,000 accounts) general ledger, employees, vendors, customers, and payees.

Major Strengths: BPI General Accounting is extremely east to set up and use. Even novices can easily set up the general ledger in a short period of time and begin entering and posting data. The reports are excellent. The program's use of color to enhance its user-friendliness is very good.

Major Weaknesses: The program's rigid accounting structure will limit some users ability to use certain account numbering systems. Also, the supplemental modules-payroll/check writer, accounts receiveable, accounts payable, and sales-order entry are extremely limited in terms and capabilities and usefulness. Users seeking more powerful supplemental modules will have to purchase the seperate stand-alone modules which will integrate into the general accounting package and expand the capabilities of these modules.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: F	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: F
Provision for protection of confidential info	: G		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Budget Trac

Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: Bear Computers, 1300 Hamilton, Bloomington, IL 61701

Cost: $595.00

Intended Audience: Administrators

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200

Also available for: IBM PC and compatibles; CP/M operating enviroments

Required Hardware: 64 K

Description: Budget Trac provides for the recording and reporting of budgets, encumbrances, expenditures, and available balances, primarily for non-profit organizations. Report outputs are:

1. Title file list (chart of accounts).
2. Trial balance (standard summary budgetary report by object code within department within fund for all funds.
3. Account details (an analysis of the detailed transactions summarized in the trial balance).
4. Vendor details (list of transactions vendor by vendor for the whole budget).
5. Requisition number details (list of requisition-by-requisition transactions for the whole budget).
6. Fund by object code (summary by object code of all fund expenditures).
7. Vendor name list (a directory).

Major Strengths: This software, after tedious set up, is straight forward and easy to use. Reports are of presentation quality. Error trapping is excellent. For a small organization, (budget less than 10 million) this software would provide excellent day by day and periodic budgetary reporting.

Major Weaknesses: The documentation, while well written, may assume greater knowledge of computers and fund accounting than potential users may have. Software capacities are not spelled out. But, using floppies, the capacity is one data disk, which is not much. Field capacities are generally small, so buyers should be clear about their needs before purchase. Entries may not exceed $99,999.99, and totals may not exceed $99,999,999.99. Using floppies, the software is not especially fast in operation. This software is not integrated with a general accounting package, so standard annual reports would have to be done by some other method.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: F	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: F
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: G	Editing capabilities for each field	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: F	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: F
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*

Title Bursar Version ____ Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address Addison Wesley Publishing Co., Jacob Way, Reading, MA 01867

Cost $195.00 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience School Clerk

Purpose/Applications of Package An accounting system for funds generated and used by a school's extra-curricular activity programs.

Required Hardware 48K Apple II, diskdrive, 80 column parallel printer

Required Software DOS 3.3, program disk, blank data diskettes.

Product Capacities 250 accounts allowing 40 transactions per month; 99 asset accounts; $10,000 transaction limit with no limit on balances.

Service Support 90-day guarantee on defective materials.

Description of Product Outputs Fund account statements; chart of existing accounts; individual journal entries; balance sheets.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
	X			Editing capabilities for each field
		X		Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Good documentation; simple to use; effective use of computer; sufficient memory for most any school's use

Major Weaknesses No data security

Other Comments One evaluator indicated that more knowledge of accounting is necessary to make the program easy to learn; he disagreed with the documentation that any school clerk could easily master the program.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: DAC Easy Accounting Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: DAC Software, Inc., 4801 Spring Valley Rd., Bldg. 110-B, Dallas, Tx 75224

Cost: $69 Intended Audience: Beginning to Intermediate General Ledger and Accounting Users.

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200 Also available for: Any MS - DOS machine

Required Hardware: one floppy disk drive, 128 K

Purpose: DAC Easy Accounting is a general ledger that has capabilities found in software products costing ten times as much as this product. The general ledger is relatively powerful and can be used by almost any small to medium sized business or governmental unit. The manual is adequate but not completely helpful in setting up the program; however, DAC has recently released a tutorial for the general ledger which costs an additional $30. The general ledger is flexible and the reports generated by it are appropriate for use by school divisions or governmental units.

Major Strengths: The primary strength of DAC Easy Accounting is its price. For $69.00 users can get a powerful dual-entry general ledger system which would normally run in excess of $500.00. The program has normal accounting principles and provides a variety of reports.

Major Weaknesses: The major weakness of DAC is in its setup. The setup procedure is intricate and a moderate knowledge of dual-entry accounting and some knowledge of the computer itself is needed. As mentioned above, the use of a tutorial would probably make this software much easier to learn and use.

Other Comments: In 1985, InfoWorld Computer News voted DAC the best new software of the year. Because of the software's great capabilities and potential--coupled with its very low price--DAC Easy Accounting is an excellent value.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: F	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: G	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: G		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: MECC Activity Accountant Version: 1.0 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: MECC, 3490 Lexington Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55112

Cost: $295 Intended Audience: District or Building Administrators

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II series

Required Hardware: 48 K, 2 disk drives, printer

Purpose: This program maintains school-level activity fund accounts for up to 50 schools. A maximum of 100 accounts and approximately 2000 transactions are permitted per data diskette. Fewer accounts allow a maximum of 3040 transactions. It allows maximum transaction or current account balances of $99,999.00 and total account balances of $999,999.00. Three digit codes are permitted for each school and account. Transactions may be closed out monthly, quarterly, yearly, or by a user-defined period. Eight reports are available: chart of accounts; a list transactions for single or all accounts; year-to-date school and district reports on single or all accounts; period-to-date school or district accounts for single or all accounts.

Major Strengths: The excellence of the documentation and ease of data entry make this program simple to use by even those with a limited knowledge of accounting. An excellent set of reports are available. One level password protection is provided.

Major Weaknesses: The program capacities would preclude use of this program in large districts. Unless Apple printers are used, the average user may encounter difficulty in setting up printer codes.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: P	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: G		

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*

Title Purchase Version Apple II Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address Addison Wesley, Jacobway, Reading MA 01867

Cost $195.00 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience School business managers

Purpose/Applications of Package To assist in making the annual school purchasing system (requisitions, bids/awards, delivery schedules) less time-consuming and more accurate.

Required Hardware Apple II with applesoft (48K); 1 disk drive; 80 column printer

Required Software DOS 3.3; program diskette (supplied) and data diskettes

Product Capacities One bid category per disk; 1 to 99 categories per disk; 300 items per category; unit price maximum = $999.99.

Service Support 90-day limited warranty; procedure for reporting and repairing problems

Description of Product Outputs Subcategories, vendors, items displayed on monitor and hardcopy. Hardcopy only of: requisitions, invitation to bid, bid awards, and delivery schedules

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
X				Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
X				Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
X				Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
		X		Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	X			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths The package achieves its stated purpose of making the school purchasing system more efficient; clear, concise documentation, and good screen prompts; adequate capacity.

Major Weaknesses Lack of options for screen display of some output; unit price cannot exceed $999.99; does not compute bid awards.

Other Comments

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*

Title The Apple Gradebook Version 2.5 Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address J. and S. Software, 140 Reid Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050

Cost $34.50 Medium of Transfer Disk Intended Audience School Teachers/Admin.

Purpose/Applications of Package To facilitate and expedite grading and reporting procedures for the instructor.

Required Hardware Apple II, II+, IIe (43K)

Required Software 3.3. Dos; one program diskette

Product Capacities 80 students and 35 grades each per class; 250 Total Students

Service Support One (1) year warranty on defects. Publisher will exchange program for 3.2 DOS capatible program if needed.

Description of Product Outputs List of student grades, class averages.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
X				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
		X		Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
X				Capacity for intended applications
		X		Availability of user-defined fields
	X			Editing capabilities for each field
	X			Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
X				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Easy to use. Good sort capabilities for listing by test, average grades or names.

Major Weaknesses Better description of weights assigned to grades would be helpful. Lack of data security.

Other Comments Merchandise comes in thin plastic bag and diskette can easily be damaged in storage and transfer.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: September 1984

Title CLASSFILE Version _____ Copyright Date 1981
Teach Yourself by Computer Software, Inc.
Producer/Address 2128 W. Jefferson Road, Pittsford, NY 14534

Cost $49.95** Medium of Transfer Cassette or Diskette Intended Audience Classroom Teacher

Purpose/Applications of Package Classroom Management of Student Grades

Evaluated on TRS-80 Models III or IV Also available for TRS-80 Mod I Cassette-Based

Required Hardware 48K for Disk; 16 for Cassette Required Software Program Complete

Product Capacities 45 students (Diskette) or 35 students (cassette); 25 grades per student

Service Support None stated

Description of Product Outputs Class list; class rankings; class averages; averages for each assignment; final grade reports; list of missing assignments; warning letter to parents; blank form for recording grades.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	x			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	x			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	x			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	x			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	x			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	x			Capacity for intended applications
NA				Availability of user-defined fields
	x			Editing capabilities for each field
x				Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
x				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
x				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	x			Ease of learning and usage
	x			Freedom from technical problems
		x		Program flexibility to meet local needs
			x	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Outputs appropriate for most any grading need of teacher; ease of learning and use.

Major Weaknesses Data analysis of several classes cannot be done; only 25 grades per student may be limiting; no protection of data.

Other Comments Recommended.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.
**Cassette costs $19.95

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: September 1985

Title: EA Gradebook Copyright Date: 1983

Producer/Address: Educational Activities, Inc., 1937 Grand Ave., Baldwin, NY 11510

Cost: $59.95 Intended Audience: Classroom Teachers

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also Available for: Apple II &IIc, TRS-80, Commodore 64 & PET

Required Hardware: 48 K, one disk drive, printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This program is an electronic grade keeping system for classroom teachers. It automatically calculates averages on a monthly, quarterly, and yearly basis. The program disk is also used as the data disk and it supports 10 classes with 36 students each and up to 36 grades per student. Each grade may be assigned a weight factor from .01 to 999. The following outputs may be sent either to the screen or to the printer: grades for a particular student, grades for a particular assignment, averages for all assignments to date, and grades for all assignments for all students in a file. The teacher may also obtain a printout of class rankings.

Major Strengths: EA Gradebook is fairly simple to learn and use and the documentation is adequate to meet the needs of the user. Two nice features are that the grades for any particular assignment can be weighted and that extra credit assignments may be given to one or more students. If a particular grading period has more than 36 grades another file may be produced, automatically transferring the student roster. Also, 2 or more files may be merged when averaging student grades.

Major Weaknesses: The program provides for a rather limited number of classes and grades per class--it would be helpful to be able to save data to a separate data disk to allow for the use of unlimited data disks. Field sizes are rather short, for instance, a student's name is truncated after 9 characters.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: F
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: F
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: March 1985

Title The Giant Cactus Gradebook Version Copyright Date 1984

Producer/Address Cactusplot Co 1442 McAllister, Tempe, AZ 85281

Cost $70 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Teachers

Purpose/Applications of Package A gradekeeping and report generation program

Evaluated on Apple IIe, II plus Also available for Apple IIc

Required Hardware 48K; one disk drive; printer Required Software program complete

Product Capacities #students x #grades = 1700 (e.g. 55 students with 30 grades or 150 students with 11 grades)

Service Support 30 day guarantee; thereafter, $15 replacement fee; one back-up copy permitted.

Description of Product Outputs Student reports; class reports; statistical reports including frequency tables, mean, standard deviation, ranges, z-scores, and weighted scores.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	x			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
x				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	x			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	x			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	x			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
x				Capacity for intended applications
	x			Availability of user-defined fields
	x			Editing capabilities for each field
	x			Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
x				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
x				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	x			Ease of learning and usage
	x			Freedom from technical problems
	x			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			x	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Excellent variety of reports available; reports may be customized by writing your own Basic program and capturing data. Thorough documentation when compared to similar programs; ability to weight scores.

Major Weaknesses No password protection.

Other Comments One evaluator felt that only experienced computer users would find documentation adequate - specifically editing and weighting instructions are not adequate.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

***Rating

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: January 1985

Title Gradebook Version Copyright Date 1983

Producer/Address Thorobred Software, P.O. Box 1131, Murray, KY 42047

Cost $75. Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Classroom Teacher

Purpose/Applications of Package Classroom teacher grade book.

Evaluated on Apple II+, IIe Also available for Apple IIc

Required Hardware 48k; 1 disk drive; printer Required Software program complete

Product Capacities unlimited data diskettes; 150 students per disk with 24 grades per student and up to six grading periods.

Service Support 30 free exchange for defective materials; $12. after 30 days; $25. exchange for software updates; may be used by all teachers in school.

Description of Product Outputs class averages; individual student records; computes percentages, total points, and averages for all grades or specific items.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
X				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
	X			Editing capabilities for each field
	X			Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	X			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
X				Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Very easy to learn and use; documentation functions well as a tutorial; although it is more expensive than other gradebooks previously evaluated, it is faster and more powerful.

Major Weaknesses Clipboard documentation holder lacks sophistication and makes it easy to lose materials; unusual amount of cursor movement when assigning grades.

Other Comments Recommended.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: July 1985

Title: The Grade System Version: 5.6 Copyright Date: 1981

Producer/Address: Charles Mann & Associates, 55722 Santa Fe Trail
Yucca Valley, CA 92285

Cost: $339.95 Intended Audience: Teacher/Administrator/Counselor

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II, II+, IIc

Required Hardware: 48K, 1 disk drive, 80 column printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: The primary purpose of this program is to provide a grade keeping and reporting system for a school. The program consists of 1 program diskette, 1 data diskette, and a manual. Teachers may individually enter grades for their students or grades may be entered by a secretary in the school office. The grade report format is limited to the following: 2 quarter grades, an exam grade, and a final average. Capacities are: 600 students per data disk; unlimited data disks; and 999 courses. Grades may be entered by letter or number. The program will calculate final averages and grade point averages. Program outputs include: report cards, counselor labels, honor roll, failing students, and class rosters.

Major Strengths: The documentation is effective and a good index is provided. A selection of comments is provided for inclusion on a student's report card - these comments may be changed by a particular school. The program is menu-driven which makes it easy to learn and use. It provides for the use of access codes to prevent unauthorized tampering of the data.

Major Weeknesses: The Grade System provides for only one type of grading format, therefore, schools should carefully compare their needs to this program's capacity prior to purchase. The program reverted to DOS on several occasions when the wrong disk was left in the disk drive and re-booting was required.

Other Comments: The program is integrated with another CMA program - The Class Scheduling System which was previously evaluated (see April 1985 publication). CMA will customize programs for a price.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: F	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: F	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: F	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: P
Provision for protection of confidential info	: G		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: April 1984

Title GRADEBOOK Version 2.0 Copyright Date 1983

Producer/Address K-12 MicroMedia, Inc., 172 Broadway, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07675

Cost not stated Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Teachers

Purpose/Applications of Package Computerized Gradebook

Evaluated on TRS-80 Mod III Also available for TRS-80 Model 4

Required Hardware 32 K RAM; 1 disk drive; 80 column printer Required Software Package Complete

Product Capacities 45 students per class; 20 grades per student; 25 classes or 75 smaller classes.

Service Support Will replace defective material for $8.00; back-up copy $8.00; Company will notify user of updated materials.

Description of Product Outputs Prints class roster (either alphabetized or by highest grade) including points for each grade, total points, and letter grade average; also, class average per test item given; individual student record; class worksheet.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
	X			Editing capabilities for each field
	X			Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	X			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
X				Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Good documentation both internally and externally; very easy to learn even for the inexperienced computer user.

Major Weaknesses No protection of data; user needs a list of student numbers to print out an individual student record.

Other Comments

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Gradebook Plus Version: 2.1 Copyright Date:1985

Producer/Address: E. M. A. Inc., P. O. Box 339, Los Altos, CA 94023

Cost: $49.00 ($150 for site license) Intended Audience: Teachers

Evaluated on: Apple IIe and IIc Also available for: IBM PC and PC JR for $59.95

Required Hardware: 64 K, one disk drive, compatible printer (optional)

Description: Gradebook Plus is designed to maintain scores and grades for students and to perform statistical analyses of individual or class grades. Program capabilities includes: 6 classes per data disk, 45 students per class, 60 entries per student. The program provides for missing grades and weighted scores. A variety of reports are available within the following categories: scores on a given student, grades for an entire class, a statistical report, class rosters, a list of failing students, and reports on weighted averages. The statistical reports include the mean, median, standard deviation, number of scores used in analysis, and total possible points for individual classes or multiple classes. Customized reports are also available to allow stored form letters to be printed on individual students.

Major Strengths: Gradebook Plus is a very comprehensive gradebook program with the capacities to meet most any teacher's needs. The customized report option is unique allowing for computerized progress reports to be rapidly generated for distribution to parents and students. Password protection is provided.

Major Weaknessess: No major weaknesses were reported by the evaluators.

Other Comments: This program is compatible with the Apple Mouse which may be used to select items from the menus.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: E		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Microtest Score II Version: A Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: National Computer Systems, 11000 Prairie Lakes Dr., Box 9365, Minneapolis, MN 55440

Cost: $550 (includes one year technical support) Intended Audience: Administrators, Counselors, and Teachers

Evaluated on: IBM XT Also available for: IBM PC

Required Hardware: 256 K, two disk drives, async communications card, NCS Sentry 3000 optical mark reader, and printer.

Description: Microtest Score II allows the user to score tests and generate a variety of reports. The user must purchase NCS answer sheets which provide for a maximum of 240 questions and 5 choices for each answer. Up to 6 test /subtests may be merged, raising the maximum number of questions per test analysis to 1440. The number of sheets which may be scored at one time is 500. Five principle reports are available: (1) Individual student reports, including raw scores, percentiles, and median scores; (2) Individual student item analysis; (3) Frequency distribution for the entire test group; (4) Item analysis for the entire test group; (5) Comparison of raw scores and percentages against Z-scores, T-scores, and stanines.

Major Strengths: The documentation provides an excellent description of scanner set-up and operations. Input operations are extremely easy and uncomplicated since the scanner does all the work. The program provides a comprehensive set of reports, some of which may be used for student and parent feedback.

Major Weaknessess: There is no password protection against illegal access to data.

Other Comments: The program scores only multiple choice or true/false type tests. Test administrators should be encouraged to supplement this type of testing with additional test methods which encourage more student involvement, questions, and class discussion.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: P	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: December 1985

Title: Quiz Writer Version: 2.1 Copyright Date: 1983

Producer/Address: Midwest Agribusiness, 1301 Greentree Rd., Westbend, WI 53095

Cost: $95.00 Intended Audience: Classroom Teachers

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II plus & IIc

Required Hardware: 48 K, 1 disk drive, printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: Quiz Writer allows the teacher to create and administer multiple choice and true or false tests. An unlimited number of data disks may be used and each disk can hold up to 20 files. The length of each file is dependent upon a user-defined maximum question length (from 200 to 500 characters)--the shorter the question length, the larger the number of questions per file. Questions are easily edited or deleted. Students may be administered the tests on the screen or on paper. If taken on- screen, the student scores are saved for immediate or later review. A maximum of 200 student quiz scores may be stored. When this capacity is reached, the teacher must delete all student records before saving any new scores. The student may select to answer some questions (e.g., numbers 20 to 30) or all questions. The teacher may also print out a test to include up to 50 selected questions from a file.

Major Strengths: The documentation is concise and straightforward, providing the novice computer user with adequate information to quickly learn the use of Quiz Writer. The program allows the teacher to add up to 20 personalized comments for students who answer questions correctly.

Major Weaknesses: The program lacks flexibility in field length--questions may be only 160 characters with each multiple choice response limited to 80 characters. There is no statistical analysis of student scores. Finally, the program is oriented more toward on-screen testing than hard copy testing--it would be helpful if the program could print out multiple copies of tests.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Editing capabilities for each field	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Ease of learning and usage	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: Teacher's Quiz Designer Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: IBM, P. O. Box 1328-S, Boca Raton, FL 33432

Cost: $54 Intended Audience: Teachers

Evaluated on: IBM PC

Required Hardware: IBM PC, 128 K, printer

Purpose: This program allows the teacher to design and store quizzes and tests with multiple choice or true/false formats. Quizzes are limited to about 50 questions and each question may have up to 7 student response choices. Multiple data disks may be used. Students may take the quizzes on screen or on hard copy. Student results are stored and analyses by student or class are available.

Major Strengths: Students may have individual disks with all quizzes or all students may take the quizzes from one disk. Results may be analyzed by class for either option. The quizzes may be accessed only by the teacher who has a password. Quizzes may also be locked to prevent changes and to prevent students from looking at the answers. Grades may be weighted for individual quizzes. All quizzes may be used to compute final student averages. This program is one of the best on the market for generating tests and managing student grades.

Major Weaknesses: Works only on the IBM PC.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: E	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: E		

Rating ****

28

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Test-Writer Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: Teach Yourself by Computer Software Inc., 2128 W. Jefferson Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534

Cost: $39.95 Intended Audience: Classroom Teachers

Evaluated on: TRS-80 Model III & IV

Required Hardware: 48 K, one or two-disk drives, and a printer

Description: This program guides teachers in the preparation, storage and printing of test questions. Each storage diskette may include up to 250 questions and answers stored under various file names. Questions may have up to 255 characters and answers up to 30 characters. The program has the capability of randomly selecting any user-defined number of questions from a file and subsequently printing them on hardcopy. The program allows for hardcopy testing only. No on-screen testing is provided. Teachers have the option of printing several test forms which contain the same questions arranged differently on each test. Cover sheets and blank answer sheets, with corresponding answer keys, may also be printed for each test.

Major Strengths: All evaluators found this program extremely easy to use. Instructions are clear and are present on the screen for each step. A person who has had little or no previous computer experience would have no difficulty in using this program to produce effective tests.

Major Weaknessess: The only weakness is the difficulty in editing previously created test questions. The editing instructions are not clear either in the documentation or on-screen. The simplest means of editing is to retype the entire question.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: F	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: F
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: F	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: Testmaster

Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: Midwest Software, Box 214, Farmington, MI 48024

Cost: $35

Intended Audience: Teachers

Evaluated on: Apple IIe

Also available for: Apple II series, IBM PC and compatibles, Commodore 64.

Required Hardware: 64 K, printer, one or two disk drives.

Purpose: Testmaster aids teachers in the preparation, storing, and administering of tests. Three files may be stored on a disk with each file holding up to 65 questions (Apple) or 80 questions (Commodore). Each file may house one of three types of questions: multiple choice (or true-false), short answer, or completion. Tests are then designed using from up to 10 files and each test may have 100 questions. Students may take tests on the screen or on paper. Teachers may print out a list of answers. The on-screen test will indicate the number of correct and incorrect responses by the student.

Major Strengths: A very easy to use program. The program will automatically shuffle response selections and question placement. Good formatting options in terms of test title and student directions.

Major Weaknesses: Short answer and completion question tests are not suitable for on-screen testing since the one answer to each question appears on the screen. The program does not save student test-taking data or perform class statistics.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: E	Editing capabilities for each field	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: Jan 1985

Title Accumulator, Jr. Version ____ Copyright Date 1984

Producer/Address SMS; P.O. Box 2097; Burlington, NC; 27216-2097

Cost $24.95 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Teachers

Purpose/Applications of Package Simple database management program marketed for teachers' record-keeping needs.

Evaluated on Apple II+; IIe Also available for Apple II; IIc

Required Hardware 48k; one disk drive; printer Required Software system complete

Product Capacities 20 fields per record max; number of records per field depends on record size; approx. 350 records of 20 fields with 10 characters each

Service Support unlimited data diskettes.
30 day satisfaction guarantee; replacement of bad disk for $15.00

Description of Product Outputs Any of all records with all or specific user-designated fields; sorts on any field.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
		X		Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
		X		Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
X				Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
	X			Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	X			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Easy to use; inexpensive; excellent search and sort capabilities; printing options provide good flexibility.

Major Weaknesses File document can't be changed once data has been saved to disk; documentation too brief(4 Pages) for the inexperienced database user; file and record size may be limited for some teacher needs.

Other Comments Excellent program for price. This program is recommended for any teacher with some database experience; an inexperienced user would most likely need help beyond the documentation.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation:

Title DB Master Version 3** Copyright Date 1980

Producer/Address Stoneware Inc., 50 Belvedere St., San Rafael CA 94901

Cost $229.00 Medium of Transfer Disk Intended Audience General Business

Purpose/Applications of Package Database Management

Evaluated on Apple II + Also available for Apple II e, IBM and others

Required Hardware 48K; 2 disk drives; printer Required Software Package complete

Product Capacities 1020 bytes per record; 100 fields per record; unlimited records

Service Support Documentation and software updates at reduced cost; hotline for special problems

Description of Product Outputs Various and numerous user-defined report formats.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
		X		Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
			X	Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
				Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
	X			Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	X			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
			X	Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
X				Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths: Very powerful--provides great flexibility in formating records and reports; unlimited file capacity; can compute fields within each record and can compute fields in reports; data protection has 3 levels of security.

Major Weaknesses: Difficult to learn and master; lack of sufficient error-handling capabilities; once a sort has been done, the sort disk cannot be reused**.

Other Comments: Although capable of meeting the database needs of most schools, schools are recommended to wait until Version 4 has been evaluated.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

**Version 4 has recently been released which claims to have no sorting problems that are associated with Version 3.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: September 1984

Title MAGIC MAILER Version _____ Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address ARTSCI, Inc., 5547 Satsuma Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91601

Cost $69.95 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience General Business/Home Use

Purpose/Applications of Package To design a data file to be merged with word processing text.

Evaluated on Apple II+ Also available for Apple II with Applesoft Ram or Ram Card

Required software 48K Required Software program complete

Product Capacities Supports one diskette

Service Support 90-day free replacement warranty; 91 days to 1 year, there is a $20 service charge; discounts on updates; $20 for multiple back-ups.

Description of Product Outputs Merges data file into any location of a word processing text; mailing labels and envelopes.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
X				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
X				Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
X				Record retrieval capabilities and speed
X				Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
X				Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
X				Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
X				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Ease of learning and use especially for someone familiar with MAGIC WINDOW II (word processor) and other ARTSCI MAGIC series with which this program integrates; excellent documentation; well-designed outputs.

Major Weaknesses No password protection; little help given for integration with other word processing programs.

Other Comments Highly recommended.

Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: April 1984

Title MAGIC MEMORY Version ____ Copyright Date 1983

Producer/Address ARTSCI INC., 5547 Satsuma Ave., N. Hollywood, CA 91601

Cost 99.95 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Home, School, Business

Purpose/Applications of Package An electronic address book to provide access to names of individuals or companies with addresses, phone number, and notes.

Evaluated on Apple II plus Also available for Apple II, IIE; Franklin 1000/1200; Albert

Required Hardware 48K; 1 or 2 disk drives; 80 column printer; 80 column card recommended Required Software Package Complete

Product Capacities 9 lines per entry; unlimited data through multiple data diskettes

Service Support 90-day free replacement on defective materials with $20 charge after 90 days; discounts on product updates.

Description of Product Outputs Screen or hard copy: addresses, cross-indexes, sorts by any line; various print formats.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
		X		Record retrieval capabilities and speed
			X	Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
				Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
		X		Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	X			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
		X		Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Ability to copy data for cross referencing; easy to learn and use.

Major Weaknesses Error handling capabilities.

Other Comments Could be adapted for use as a "mini-database" for student organizations, etc.; one evaluator was dissatisfied with the format to hardcopy and found after printing that it was necessary to reboot to return to main menu.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Mailing List Program Copyright Date: 1982

Producer/Address: Educational Activities Inc., 1937 Grand Ave., Baldwin, NY 11510

Cost: $34.95 Intended Audience: Classroom Management

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II series, TRS-80 mod III & IV, Commodore Pet, Atari

Required Hardware: 48 K, one disk drive, printer, mailing labels

Description: The purpose of this program is to maintain and print out a mail list of up to 700 names and addresses. An unlimited number of data disks may be used, but each data disk works independently of others. The program is completely menu driven. The user simply enters data into pre-designed fields, which provide 2 address fields (for lengthy addresses) and a field to categorize the entry into one of ten categories (user-defined). Searches may be performed on any field and sorts may be performed by zip code. Print outs on screen or hard copy may be obtained for labels or for a listing of all entries by any one category or all categories.

Major Strengths: Input and editing functions are easily performed, and in general, the program is easy to use and learn. It contains a built-in label alignment test.

Major Weaknessess: Partial searches are not accepted--the entire name must be typed.

Other Comments: This program is recommended for those people who are not familiar with a general purpose database which could easily perform the same functions as the Mailing List Program.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: E
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: P	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: P
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: December 1985

Title: MECC Student Records Version: 1.0 Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: MECC, 3490 Lexington Ave. North, St. Paul, MN 55112

Cost: $295.00 ($395 for Hard Disk Version) Intended Audience: School Administrators

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: IBM PC

Required Hardware: 64 K, 2 disk drives (supports 3), 132 column compatible printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: The MECC Student Records program is designed to establish and maintain a student demographic database and to integrate with other MECC programs for scheduling, grade reporting, health records, and attendance (only attendance program currently available). The program supports 725 students per data disk. Larger schools may split student records on separate disks or purchase the hard disk version which supports up to 5000 students (Corvus hard disk required for the Apple). Reports are user-defined and may be sorted by an unlimited number of fields. Totals may be obtained for numeric fields and label formats are pre-defined. Up to 15 formats may be saved for future use.

Major Strengths: MECC Student Records is a comprehensive student database system that is password protected as programs of this nature should be. It is very flexible in that every imaginable field has been pre-defined for the user, and if more fields are needed, additional user-defined fields are available. All coded fields have self-checking capabilities and several important fields require mandatory entry of data.

Major Weaknesses: Most fields require specific coded data to be entered. Therefore, data entry can be tedious due to the numerous codes that often must be referred to on hard copy.

Other Comments: The publisher reports that the scheduling and grade reporting programs integrated with MECC Student Records will be available in the first half of 1986.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: G	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen / [illegible] copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning and usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: G		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: July 1985

Title: MMS Master File Copyright Date: 1981

Producer/Address: Compu'er Resources Inc., Barrington Mall
Barrir ton, NH 03825

Cost: $399. Entire series costs $3,245. Intended Audience: School Administrators

Evaluated on: Apple IIe CP/M, TRS-80 Model IV Also available for: TRS-80 Model III
IBM MS DOS, and
CP/M - 80

Required Hardware/Software: 64K Apple with CP/M version 2.23 or greater, 2 to 4 disk drives, 132 column printer. CP/M not needed for TRS-80 and IBM models.

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This program is designed to maintain a student database and to integrate with 4 other programs purchased separately and evaluated in this publication. They are: attendance, scheduling, grade reporting, and class cutting programs. The Master File is required for all other modules and it comes with one program disk and a manual. The maximum number of students is 475 students per grade level/disk if using more than 3 drives (required for other modules, not Master File); 225 students if using 2 drives. There are 20 data fields per student, 5 user-defined. Sort and Print options are user-defined and multiple field sorts may be completed.

Major Strengths: Input of data and editing is simple. Documentation provides excellent review of CP/M operating system. Documentation is very comprehensive. The integration with other programs makes this a powerful tool for the administrator.

Major Weaknesses: The documentation is somewhat disorganized and lacks an index which would greatly help the user. User must know ID numbers of students and the first and last ID numbers of any particular sort, therefore a hardcopy of ID numbers must be on hand. Reports are subject to a particular sort, and sorting is completed through another menu selection rather than from the print routine. Print specifications cannot be saved for future use.

Other Comments: This program and the other MMS modules are hard disk compatible. The purchaser gets a 90 day free support guarantee which includes a technical hotline. Additional support must be purchased at 15% of cost per year for each module.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: F
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: F	Editing capabilities for each field	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: F
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: F
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: January 1985

Title PFS: FILE Version Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address Software Publishing Corp. 1901 Landing Dr., Mountain View CA 94043

Cost $125. Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience General Business

Purpose/Applications of Package Database Management

Evaluated on Apple II+, IIe, IIc Also available for Apple Macintosh; IBM PC

Required Hardware 48k; 2 disk drives Required Software program complete

Product Capacities One file per disk; 1000 records per file if records are 128 characters or less; 32 screens of data per record maximum.

Service Support 90 day warranty; $15 backup; updates available at reduced cost.

Description of Product Outputs All or selected records in a file may be printed; all fields within a record or user-selected fields in sequence as they appear in the record may be printed; sorts fastest only by first field.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
X				Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
X				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
X				Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
			X	Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
X				Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths User-friendly; meets data structure needs of most any small to medium size school (500 pupils); excellent database program for classroom management needs.

Major Weaknesses Slow search/sort except when using the first field; limited disk capacity for large records; data cannot be sorted or merged with other files, that is, it is not a relational database.

Other Comments Integrated with PFS: Report, PFS: Write, and PFS: Graph.

Recommended.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: January 1985

Title PFS: Report Version Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address Software Publishing Corp.; 1901 Landing Dr.; Mountain View, CA 94043

Cost $125.00 Medium of Transfer diskette Intended Audience General Business

Purpose/Applications of Package Produces reports in tabular form from files developed with PFS: File.

Evaluated on Apple II+; IIe Also available for Apple IIc; Macintosh; IBM PC

Required Hardware 48k; 2 disk drives; printer Required Software program complete

Product Capacities Limited only by PFS:File capacity(see accompanying evaluation) Prints up to 9 columns within 160 characters.

Service Support 90 day warranty; $15 backup; updates available at reduced cost

Description of Product Outputs Printed tabular reports using user designated fields as headings(maximum 9 columns); sort on any one field; fields arranged in any order; performs totals, subtotals, averages, subaverages, counts and subcounts for any 2 columns.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
X				Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
X				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
		X		Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
X				Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
			X	Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
X				Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Easy to learn and use; well-organized documentation; can save print specifications for later use.

Major Weaknesses Lacks screen display of hardcopy outputs; sort process very slow; cannot return to previous menu to correct errors in retreival or print specs. - one must reset and begin sequence again.

Other Comments Recommended

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: Aug 1984

Title Qbase Version Copyright Date 1983

Producer/Address Applied Software Technology, 170 Knowles Dr., Los Gatos, CA 95030

Cost $189 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience General Business Use

Purpose/Applications of Package Database Management

Evaluated on Apple IIe, II+ Also available for Apple II

Required Hardware 64K; 2 disk drives Required Software Package Complete

Product Capacities File size limited to one diskette; record size limited to one screen; smaller record size gives greater number of records.

Service Support 90 day guarantee; documentation provides necessary information for installation and training.

Description of Product Outputs Limited report format: columns by fields and mailing labels. Good selection criteria of 3 "and" or 9 "or" Boolean conditions.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
x				Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	x			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	x			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	x			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
x				Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	x			Capacity for intended applications
x				Availability of user-defined fields
x				Editing capabilities for each field
	x			Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	x			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	x			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	x			Ease of learning and usage
x				Freedom from technical problems
x				Program flexibility to meet local needs
			x	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Ease of use; clear, well-written documentation; excellent tutorial; error handling; speed of operation; data checking capabilities; editing options; stores more than one file on a diskette.

Major Weaknesses no password protection for accessing files; record and file size limitations (see capacities above); limited report formats.

Other Comments Although not evaluated, documentation claims data transfer capabilities to another Pascal program, e.g. to a word processing program to merge names and address. Overall positive recommendations for adoption of Qbase for school's database needs.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: Revelation Version: 6.2B Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Cosmos, Inc., 19530 Pacific Hwy. South, Seattle, WA 98188

Cost: $950 Intended Audience: Highly sophisticated data base users

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200 Also available for: Any MS - DOS Operating System

Required Hardware: 640 K and a hard disk drive are recommended. It will run with 2 disk drives and 340 K.

Purpose: Revelation is one of the most powerful relational database programs available. It's only major limitation is that record sizes can be only 64 K, which will limit no one. An infinite number of fields per record, records per file, indexed files, sorted fields, open files, screens per file, and files per screen are available. Some data entry capacities include: look up tables; double entry verification; required fields; default values; required specific values in fields, and more. Some output features include: arithmetic and statistical functions; pre-defined mail labels; stored report specifications; headers; footers, and more.

Major Strengths: Revelation's major strength is that it is completely user flexible and can perform almost any type of data base operation. This is an extremely powerful package. It is also available in a networking version.

Major Weaknesses: Revelation comes in two large manuals. The program is expensive ($950 for the non-networking version), and it is extremely difficult and complex to use. It is our estimation that a professional system programmer would require approximately 4-6 weeks to be able to use the full capabilities of Revelation.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: F	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: E
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: E	Editing capabilities for each field	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: P
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: E		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: December 1984

Title VERSAFORM Version 2 Copyright Date 1981

Producer/Address Applied Software Technology, 170 Knowles Dr., Los Gatos, CA 95030

Cost $389. Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Business Office

Purpose/Applications of Package Database of business forms with data entry checking, calculations, automatic data entry; prints to pre-designed business forms.

Evaluated on Apple II+, IIe Also available for Apple III, IBM PC, Colombis, Compaq, Corona

Required Hardware 64k; 2 disk drives; printer Required Software 64k or pascal language car

Product Capacities Unlimited but independent data diskettes; number of records per file varies by record length maximum number records per disk = 904.User determines number of records and program will determine if the disk can support the desired number.

Service Support 90 day warranty for defects; allowed 1 backup copy; $14.95 for replacement plus damaged disk; free updates.

Description of Product Outputs Entire forms or specified fields from forms; sorts on any field with unlimited number of conditions; gives subtotals and/or totals on sorted conditions; prints fields in any order or place on the paper to enable printing to pre-designed forms; mail labels.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
X				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
X				Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
X				Record retrieval capabilities and speed
X				Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
X				Capacity for intended applications
X				Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
	X			Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
X				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
		X		Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Extremely flexible in form design and print format; user-defined data checking and error-trapping; variety of user defined automatic data entry into unlimited number of fields assuming item has has not been designated as a mandatory data field; extremely powerful, flexible and fast program.

Major Weaknesses Many applications may require a hard disk to fully utilize program capabilities (program supports up to 4 megabytes); cannot change form design after data has been entered, but may change data checking and automatic data entry procedures.

Other Comments Can be integrated with other PASCAL programs; can be used for most any database needs, especially in the business office of schools; Highly recommended.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation:

Title Grade Reporting Version Floppy Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address Unicom 297 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907

Cost $250 Medium of Transfer Disk Intended Audience School Administrators

Purpose/Applications of Package To computerize student grade reporting. See below for description of extensive list of outputs.

Evaluated on Apple II Plus Also available for Apple IIe

Required Hardware 2 disk drives; 132 column printer; kram card supplied Required Software package complete

Product Capacities Unlimited data diskettes; Disk Capacity [3(# of students) + (# of instructors) + (# of Courses)] < 2000

Service Support 90-day warranty

Description of Product Outputs Student report cards; class rankings; honor roll; enrollment data (by instructor, student or course); student data (addresses, absenteeism); Instructor data (salary, phone, etc); course data (number, instructor, period, credits)

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
X				Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
X				Record retrieval capabilities and speed
X				Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
X				Capacity for intended applications
X				Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
X				Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
X				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems**
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Excellent documentation; program handles virtually all aspects of the grade reporting process and allows sufficient customizing to meet local needs; good flexibility in organization of reports; has self-checking procedures.

Major Weaknesses No password protection; long printing time required for large schools (not a fault of program) - recommend high speed printer or print buffer.

Other Comments Convertible to Corvus hard disk system. Corvus version costs $450. **One evaluator reported a bug in the printout of grade forms.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: July 1985

Title: MMS Grade Reporting Copyright Date: 1981

Producer/Address: Computer Resources Inc., Barrington Mall
Barrington, NH 03825

Cost: $949 Intended Audience: School Administrators

Evaluated on: TRS-80 Model III and IV Also available for: Apple CP/M, IBM PC, and CP/M-80

Required Hardware/Software: MMS Master File, CP/M 2.23 or greater (CP/M version only), 3 disk drives, 132 column printer.

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This program is a complete grade system for schools. It maintains student grades, performs calculations, and provides a variety of reports. The program comes with 2 diskettes and a manual. Although the documentation claims that 600 students per grade level may be included in the system, 475 students is the maximum number that may be included in the Master File. Since this program uses the same students included in the Master File, it is unlikely that the MMS Grade Reporting program will effectively handle more than 475. The program provides for up to 12 courses per student. Greades may be entered by student number or course. Output includes: report cards, transcript labels, verification lists, class rank lists (based on weighted GPA), honor roll lists, cross-reference lists, mailing labels, and grade distribution lists.

Major Strengths: Sorting may be completed on multiple fields. Screen displays are nicely formatted and data entry is easy. The program provides a comprehensive set of reports.

Major Weaknesses: A record may not be edited until after entry is complete. Report generation is subject to a particular sort on the Master File. If another format is desired in a report, then the entire file must be re-sorted from another menu selection other than the print routine. This process is somewhat slow and cumbersome. Print specifications may not be saved for future use.

Other Comments: This program requires the use of the MMS Master File, and it shares data with the MMS Scheduling System and the MMS Attendance System (all three of these programs are evaluated in this publication).

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: F
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: F	Capacity for intended applications	: F
Availability of user-defined fields	: G	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: F
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: G		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: School Office Manager Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Intellectual Software, 798 North Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606

Cost: $95 Intended Audience: School Office

Evaluated on: IMB - PC and Apple IIE Also available for: IMB compatibles and Macintosh

Required Hardware: Apple IIc or IIe with extended 80-column card, monitor, one or two disk drives, printer (optional).

Purpose: This program contains four applications: (1) a scheduler to maintain an appointment calendar for school events or meetings; (2) a bookkeeper to maintain running account balances and produce monthly or year-to-date reports on 40 accounts per disk; (3) a free-form database which acts much like a word processor except that it will search for keywords; (4) a spreadsheet allowing 20 rows and 9 columns. It has formulae built-in to calculate and project budget expenditures and enrollment increases. It may also be used as a regular spreadsheet.

Major Strengths: The scheduler will sort and print reports sorted on a variety of fields such as day, place, etc. The free-form database is a very interesting concept in database management in that information is entered as text, similar to word processing, then the user defines keywords from the text that will be used as search terms. The database may be used for a variety of purposes -- it will also search any ASC II text file.

Major Weaknesses: Bookkeeper capacities are small, and you must round to nearest dollar amount. Scheduler appointments are shown in order entered not in order to be kept. The spreadsheet is too small for most school bugetary needs and it works very slowly when performing calculations.

Other Comments: The three star rating (***) is for the database applications. The program would not be recommended for primary use in the other applications.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: F	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: F
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: F
Availability of user-defined fields	: P	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: April 1985

Title T/MAKER Version Copyright Date 1985

Producer/Address T/MAKER, 2115 Landings Dr., Mountain View, CA 94043

Cost $450 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Admin./Teachers

Purpose/Applications of Package An integrated program for the following applications: word processing, database management, spreadsheets, bar graphics, spelling checker

Evaluated on TRS-80 IV; Zenith 150 Also available for Apple CP/M; IBM PC and compatibles

Required Hardware 64K CP/M & TRS DOS; 128K IBM; 2 drives; printer Required Software program complete

Product Capacities Maximum length of any file 44,000 characters; Database record length of 2,000 characters; spreadsheet of 50 columns with any number of rows up to 44,000 characters total. Spelling checker of 52,000 words - can add on or develop additional dictionaries.

Service Support 90 day guarantee; updates at cost only; telephone hotline; back-ups allowed.

Description of Product Outputs Essentially user-defined with ability to printout to pre-designed forms; files from any application may be combined and printed as one document.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
		X		Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
		X		Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
X				Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
X				Capacity for intended applications
X				Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
X				Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
X				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
X				Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths: Extreme flexibility with applications limited only by user creativity; a truely integrated program - all applications entered thru the text editor - no modules, only commands; powerful, easy to use relational database; can capture and use any ASCII file; footnote capability.

Major Weaknesses Documentation: difficult for inexperienced software user, tutorial more of a demo than teacher, the numerous educational applications aren't identified; graphics component limited to barcharts.

Other Comments Check your database file size needs before purchase - although, file merge capabilities should be adequate even for the largest of databases; cost policies are better for multiple copies, e.g., 50 copies for $97 each; would be 4 star rating except for documentation.

*** Rating

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: December 1985

Title: Audiovisual Materials Inventory Program Copyright Date: 1983

Producer/Address: Educational Activities, Inc., 1937 Grand Ave., Baldwin, NY 11510

Cost: $79.00 Intended Audience: Librarian/Media Coordinator

Evaluated on: Apple IIe & II plus Also available for: TRS-80, Commodore, IBM, Atari, and ACORN

Required Hardware: 48 K, 2 disk drives, printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This program provides an electronic inventory control system for audiovisual materials. The data disk which is provided by the producer holds approximately 600 records (the exact number depends on type of computer). There are eleven pre-defined data fields: Format of Material (cassette, filmstrip, etc.), Call Number, Subject, Title, Accession Number, Producer, Date Produced, Description, Acquisition Date, Vendor, and Price. Records may be edited or deleted. The user may view all records on the screen or all records may be printed. Also, screen or hard copy reports listing the fields format, accession number, acquisition date, and price may be sorted by the following fields: Format, Producer, Acquisition Date, and Subject.

Major Strengths: The program is very user friendly. The documentation and ease of use make this program practical for the novice computer user. Furthermore, the program provides very useful information for librarians and media coordinators.

Major Weaknesses: The search and sort functions do not allow searches by Call Number or Title. There is no provision for user-defined data fields. For example, it would be helpful to know the current location of materials loaned out for an extended period. Additional data disks must be purchased from the producer.

Other Comments: A four program set for media and equipment management (all evaluated in this publication) is available for $269.00. Although this program is useful, a general purpose file management program can be used to achieve this program's goals and provide more flexibility in terms of record design and report formats. If this program were integrated with its sister program, Materials Scheduling Program, it would be a much more useful and powerful program.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: P	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning and usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: F

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: September 1985

Title: Card-Cat Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Computations, Inc., P.O. Box 502, Troy, MI 48098

Cost: $59.95 Intended Audience: Librarians

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also Available for: Apple II

Required Hardware: 48 K, one disk drive, printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: Card-Cat enables a librarian to input, save, edit, and print the five required catalog cards and spine labels. The program comes with a small documentation booklet, a program disk and data disk. The program supports unlimited data disks which hold 160 cards each.

Major Strengths: Being completely menu-driven, Card-Cat is very easy to use and requires limited experience with a computer. Also, it contains a system configuration menu which allows the user a wide variety of system configurations already built into the program, or the user may customize the configuration to special equipment not listed in the menu. It will even support input from a joystick and Koala Pad. The user may also select from a variety of card and label sizes and therefore customize to any card or label size.

Major Weaknesses: Program outputs are limited to only cards and spine labels--customized reports, lists, etc. are not available. Search capabilities are limited to card number (from 1 to 160), requiring the user to know the number of a card to print it--yet, the program does not print a list of card numbers by book title or author. The program crashed when the data disk was not in drive 2.

Other Comments: The program disk is not copy protected and the user is permitted one archival back-up. The program provides the formatting of unlimited data disks.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: F
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: P	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: F	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: F
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating***

MSU Software Evaluation Clearinghouse
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: December 1985

Title: The Software Librarian Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: Educational Activities, Inc., 1937 Grand Ave., Baldwin, NY, 11510

Cost: $59.95 Intended Audience: School Librarians

Evaluated On: Apple IIe Also Available For: IBM PC, TRS-80 Model III & 4

Required Hardware: 48 K, 2 disk drives, printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: The Software Librarian is a database designed to catalog the software collection of a school library, but is applicable for the classroom or home as well. The program supplies one data disk which holds any number of files and up to 450 records on an Apple or IBM and 700 records on a TRS-80. Files may be designed to include records (i.e., software programs) for a subject area, type of software, location of software, etc. Records consist of the following fields: Title, Grade Level, Subject, Catalog Number, and Program Description. Files may be searched by any field except "Program Description." The user may edit file information or individual records, and printouts of individual records, all records in a file, or lists by any field (except "Program Description") may be obtained.

Major Strengths: The program is very easy to learn and use, and the documentation is concise and well illustrated. It is completely menu-driven.

Major Weaknesses: The lack of user-defined fields makes the program very inflexible and the fields for "Title" and "Subject" are too small. The user must carefully plan the number of files per data disk since only 450 records are allowed on Apple and IBM. With 20 files, approximately 22 records per file would be allowed. Additional data disks are allowed but they must be purchased from Educational Activities.

Other Comments: This is a good program for the novice computer user, but anyone with database experience can set up a database with any general purpose file management program to perform essentially the same tasks as this program.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities and speed	: G
Error-handling and counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: P	Editing capabilities	: G
Availability of options for screen and hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs and ease of use	: G	Ease of learning and usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: P
Provision for protection of confidential info.	: P		

RATING ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Tesana Copyright Date: 1982

Producer/Address: Bor-ven Computer Service, Inc., 856 Western Ave., Madison, MN 56256

Cost: $245.00 Intended Audience: School Labor Negotiators

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: None stated

Required Hardware: 48 K, 2 disk drives, printer.

Description: Tesana is a customized spreadsheet (30 rows x 12 columns) used to set up salary classification matrices and summary schedules for up to a five year projection and a teacher roster of up to 999 employees.
Outputs include:

1. A classified step matrix.
2. A dollar cost step matrix.
3. Dollar cost step matrix projections for up to five years.
4. A matrix of index (rate of change) rates.
5. An analysis of costs under various assumptions of changes in salary--either fixed dollar or percentage.

Major Strengths: This software is relatively easy to learn and to use. It is quick, and could be used in "real time" negotiations. Matrices for several alternative proposals may be retained.

Major Weaknessess: The reports provided, while eminently readable, are of the "rough and ready" variety--not presentation quality. Odd-ball salary proposals--multiple fixed dollar adjustments on top of a percentage rate change, for example--could not be readily accommodated by this software. Evaluators complained about the tedious set up procedures.

Other Comments: This software could also be used in the ordinary payroll budgeting process.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: E
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: F	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: F
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: December 1985

Title: Audiovisual Equipment Inventory Program Copyright Date: 1982

Producer/Address: Educational Activities, Inc., 1937 Grand Ave., Baldwin, NY 11510

Cost: $79.00 Intended Audience: Librarians and Media Coordinators

Evaluated on: Apple IIe & II plus Also available for: Commodore, IBM, TRS-80 Atari, and ACORN

Required Hardware: 48 K, 2 disk drives, printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This program maintains an inventory for audiovisual equipment. Approximately 600 records on individual items may be stored. Records may be easily edited and deleted. Each record contains the following data fields: Type of Equipment, Make, Model, Location, ID Number, Serial Number, Vendor, Lamp Code Number, Price, Acquisition Date, Depreciation Expiration Date, and six other fields to maintain a maintenance record for each item. The user may obtain, either on screen or hard copy, a complete listing of all records. Also, various reports are available by searching on the following fields: Type of Equipment, Vendor, Acquisition Date, and Location.

Major Strengths: The program is easy to use and user friendly. It provides for efficient automation of equipment inventories. The documentation contains a suggested list of codes and depreciation expiration dates for almost every imaginable type of equipment.

Major Weaknesses: There are no provisions for user-defined data fields or for searches on data fields other than those provided for by the program (described above). Field lengths are rather limited in size which necessitates the entry of most data by code. Hence, data input can be rather cumbersome. Additional data disks must be purchased from publisher.

Other Comments: A four program set for media and equipment management (all evaluated in this publication) is available for $269.00. Although this program is useful, a general purpose file management program can be used to achieve this program's goals and provide more flexibility in terms of record design and report formats. If this program were integrated with its sister program, Equipment Scheduling Program, it would be a much more useful and powerful program.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: P	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning and usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: F

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*

Title Energy Monitor Version Apple II Copyright Date 1983

Producer/Address Addison Wesley, Jacob way, Reading, MA 01867

Cost $245.00 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience School or business

Purpose/Applications of Package To monitor energy use (electricity, gas, oil) and manage ener conservation for up to 90 buildings.

Required Hardware Apple II with Applesoft (48K); one disk drive; 80 column printer; availabl for TRS-80 Mod III

Required Software DOS 3.3; data diskette and program diskette included with package

Product Capacities From 1 to 90 energy consuming buildings or entities

Service Support Limited to 90-day warranty on defective materials; procedure for reportin and repairing problems.

Description of Product Outputs Generates 6 reports illustrating electric, gas and oil usage for for each or all buildings. Reports show month by month usage and the percentage of ann total energy use. Compares to previous year.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
		X		Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
		X		Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
			X	Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
		X		Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	X			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
		X		Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths An efficient and meaningful system for the organization and comparison of a large amount of energy data.

Major Weaknesses No password protection; data entry tedious but necessary; documentation only "Fair" for the average user.

Other Comments One reviewer encountered an error message which the documentation could not explain.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*

Title EQUIP Version AppleII Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address Addison Wesley, Jacobway, Reading MA 01867

Cost $195.00 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience School Business Manag

Purpose/Applications of Package An equipment inventory control system

Required Hardware 48K Apple II with Applesoft; 1 disk drive; 80 column printer; also available for TRS-80 Mod I or III.

Required Software DOS 3.3; program and data diskette provided with package.

Product Capacities 39 equipment categories; 1200 line items/diskette; 999 line items per category; maximum unit and total cost $99999.

Service Support Limited 90 day warranty on defective materials; procedure for reporting and repairing problems.

Description of Product Outputs Hard copy only for inventory by category, description, manufacturer, model, location of equipment of combinations of these.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
X				Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
		X		Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
X				Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
			X	Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
	X			Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
X				Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Can be easily learned by personnel with little computer knowledge; inventory adequate for any one school.

Major Weaknesses No screen display of outputs; no password protection; inadequate for district-wide database.

Other Comments There is no option to use 2 disk drives, therefore, user must switch program and data diskettes.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: MECC Energy Manager Version: 1.0 Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: MECC, 3490 Lexington Ave. N. St. Paul, MN 55112

Cost: $195 Intended Audience: School Plant Administrators

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II series

Required Hardware: 48 K RAM, 2 disk drives, printer

Purpose: This software provides an inexpensive and relatively non-technical way to track building fuel consumption and costs per square foot per degree day. A table of conservation measures enables the user to note changes in energy use that coincide with the introduction of such measures, and to compute the resultant savings.

Major Strengths: Easy to set up, learn, and use. Does an extraordinary job of making technical physical plant cost control accessible to the non-technical administrator.

Major Weaknesses: Probably use of this software is limited to institutions or systems too small to employ their own technical staff or consultants. This software records history; it does not predict the future or compute savings resulting from energy conservation measures.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: F	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: P	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: March 1985

Title Class Scheduling Version 5.2 Copyright Date 1980

Producer/Address Charles Mann, Assoc.; 55722 Santa Fe Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92289

Cost $549.95 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Administrators

Purpose/Applications of Package Student Scheduling

Evaluated on Apple IIe Also available for IBM PC at $849.95

Required Hardware 48K, 2 disk drives, printer Required Software program complete

Product Capacities Practical limit of 3,000 students and 400 courses

Service Support Excellent: 90 day warranty; free 90 days for updates and hotline; otherwise, $200 per year extended warranty including downloading of updates via electronic communications

Description of Product Outputs Master schedule, student schedules, course tallies, conflict matrix, class rosters, student request lists, course offerings, student scheduling forms; student verification forms, conflict for individuals.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
		X		Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
X				Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
X				Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
		X		Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
	X			Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Thorough set of reports; handles the monumental task of scheduling 3,000 students very well considering the small amount of memory required.

Major Weaknesses Hard to install and learn even for the experienced computer user due to documentation problems (a tutorial would be helpful); not hard disk compatible; no provision for non-keyboard entry.

Other Comments CMA has indicated that a revision is forthcoming that will handle 9999 students and will be hard disk compatible.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

***Rating

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: SEPTEMBER 1984

Title THE CLASSIFIER Version Apple II+ Copyright Date 1981

Producer/Address Mount Castor Ind., 51 Harbor View Lane, P.O. Box 488, East Orleans, MA 02643

Cost $495.00 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience School Administrators

Purpose/Applications of Package School Scheduling of Classes

Evaluated on Apple II plus Also available for Apple IIe, IBS-80 III & IV, IBM PC

Required Hardware 48K, 2 drives, printer, Tangler (supplied) Required Software Program Complete

Product Capacities 1500 Students; 255 courses.

Service Support Hot line provided; will refund if problems cannot be corrected.

Description of Product Outputs Student schedules, class rosters, master schedule, teacher and room schedules, conflict matrix, list of students requesting a particular course.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
X				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
		X		Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
		X		Editing capabilities for each field
			X	Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
X				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
		X		Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Good documentation - clear and straightforward; outputs meet most any school scheduling need; capacities sufficient for most any school.

Major Weaknesses No protection of data against unauthorized use; need for better options in screen vs. hard copy output; must delete entire record when mistakes detected.

Other Comments Bug detected at the end of the program which does not impair effective use of program; the publisher has indicated that this problem has been corrected; great deal of planning must be done prior to using this program, but once done, the classifier makes scheduling a breeze.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

**This program is recommended as suitable for adoption.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: March 1985

Title Harts III School Administration System Version 4.2 Copyright Date 1983

Producer/Address Harts Systems, 101-1035 W. 13th Av., Vancouver BC Canada V6H1N1

Cost $3000 plus $600 per year maintenance fee Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience School Administrators

Purpose/Applications of Package Integrated program for student records, scheduling, attendance, and grade reporting.

Evaluated on Apple II plus Also available for Apple IIe, Franklin Ace

Required Hardware 48K, 132 column printer; 2 disk drives Required Software complete package

Product Capacities Approximately 1500 students (1558 max.), 12 courses per student or 10 plus 2 alternates. Four reporting periods and final grade for grade reporting. Data entered through keyboard or card scanner. (Chatsworth 2000 or 2400)

Service Support Excellent: installation assistance; individual school specifications can be changed, updates, hotline, technical advice.

Description of Product Outputs See attached page

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
X				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
X				Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
X				Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
X				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
	X			Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Extremely flexible with multiple report options; excellent service support; publisher sets up program to individual school specifications; good operating speed; program integration.

Major Weaknesses Documentation could be more tutorial in nature to assist the inexperienced user; some disk swapping necessary and not hard disk compatible.

Other Comments A 4 star rating not given due to cost and annual maintenance fee. Publisher will negotiate for outright sale.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.
***Rating

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: KnowConflicts Version: 1.0 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Bear Computers Inc., 1300 Hamilton, Bloomington, IL 61701

Cost: $995 Intended Audience: School Administrators

Evaluated on: IBM XT Also available for: IBM PC or AT and compatibles; CP/M

Required Hardware: 64 K, 2 disk drives, 80 column printer

Description: KnowConflicts is a scheduling program for Junior and Senior High Schools. It is capable of scheduling up to 1300 students, but this number is not realistic since the program will not schedule multiple sections of a course. The program limitations make it applicable for small high schools, but not large ones. The user simply enters a course list, a list of teachers and the courses they teach, and student course requests. The program then runs the master schedule and supplies information on course/student conflicts. The outputs on hardcopy or monitor are: 1) Master schedule; 2) Student schedules by ID or name; 3) Teacher schedules by ID or name; 4) Course rosters; 5) Course lists by ID, department, or number of students, and; 6) Course conflict talley.

Major Strengths: The most outstanding feature of KnowConflicts is that it will generate a master schedule, allowing the user to easily manipulate that schedule to resolve conflicts. Exellent error-trapping will not allow students or teachers to be assigned to non-existent courses. Additional strenghts include user-defined course options that allow the following: limiting a course to a specific period or range of periods; scheduling a course for a two hour block of time; always scheduling a course at the same time as another course; alternating days with another course; scheduling for 9 week courses, and ; scheduling one course in the AM and another in the PM.

Major Weaknessess: Input operations are very slow. The program verifies and saves each entry instead of waiting until all entries are made. The major limitation of the program is that it does not allow for multiple sections of a course. This limitation may be overcome somewhat by assigning each section its own course number, but this limits student assignment into only one section. In addition, the documentation needs an index, could be more explicatory of its operations, and should be organized in a step-by-step manner.

Other Comments: Overall, KnowConflicts is an excellent scheduling program for a small school with few multiple sections.

EVALUATION SUMMARY
E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: F	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: F
Availablility of user-defined field	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: P
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P	Speed of operation	: P

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: July 1985

Title: MMS Scheduling System — Copyright Date: 1981

Producer/Address: Computer Resources Inc., Barrington Mall
Barrington, NH 03825

Cost: $1,099 — Intended Audience: School Administrators

Evaluated on: Apple IIe CP/M — Also available for: TRS-80 Models III and IV
IBM DOS, and CP/M - 80

Required Hardware/Software: The MMS Master File, 64K Apple with CP/M capability of version 2.23 or greater, 3 or 4 disk drives, 132 column printer.

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This program provides a complete school scheduling system. The package contains 3 program disks and a manual. With 4 disk drives 475 students per grade may be scheduled and with 3 drives, 225 students per grade level. The program provides for: 12 courses per student, 300 different courses, 1200 sections, 31 sections per course, 150 teachers, 160 study halls, 6 day weeks, and 16 periods by the year, semester, or quarter. The list of outputs inlcude: lists of courses and course data, section lists, teacher lists, teacher schedules, course/section student lists, student duplicate displays, student course requests, course request lists, requests for courses not listed, course tallies, course lists for those not scheduled into a course, student free time, class lists, student schedules, student schedule matrix for scheduled and nonscheduled students, and conflict matrix room schedules.

Major Strengths: This documentation is the best of the MMS modules. It tutors the user on all phases of scheduling including planning, data collection and other useful information. It includes a section which gives an overview and specifics on each program operation--this section makes up for the lack of an index. There is an excellent selection of reports and user-defined reports.

Major Weaknesses: The program will allow incorrect data to be entered into its fields. Print specifications cannot be stored for later use, requiring the reentry of print specifications.

Other Comments: One option may be purchased with this program. The evaluators would recommend the purchase of the Study Hall Scheduler for $149 as it provides additional reports of Teacher and Room availability and various study hall reports. For schools who schedule through ARENA type scheduling, a seperte program is available for $679 (this program was not evaluated). The MMS Scheduling System is compatible with the Scantron Optical Mark Reader or the NCS Sentry 300 if a special chip is purchased. This program is also hard disk compatible.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: E	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: April 1984

Title MAGICALC Version _____ Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address ARTISCI, Inc. 5547 Satsuma Avenue, N. Hollywood, CA 91601

Cost $149.95 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience General Business

Purpose/Applications of Package Electronic Spreadsheet

Evaluated on Apple II Plus Also available for Apple IIe; Franklin 1000/1200; Alber

Required Hardware 48K; 1 or 2 disk drives; printer optional Required Software Diskette Complete

Product Capacities 254 rows by 63 columns; unlimited files on separate diskettes

Service Support 90-day warranty for defective materials; $20 backup; updates at discount

Description of Product Outputs Spreadsheet on screen or hardcopy

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
		X		Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
		X		Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
	X			Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
X				Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
		X		Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
	X			Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Documentation well-written and easy to use; typical electronic spreadsheet.

Major Weaknesses No index in documentation; no protection against access to data; 63 column capacity may prove inadequate for some applications

Other Comments One evaluator felt that some commands used illogical keys such as CTRL E to move cursor to beginning of cell; program outputs can be integrated with some word processing software.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: MECC Bus Routes Version: 1.0 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: MECC, 3490 Lexington Ave., N., St. Paul, MN 55112

Cost: $250 Intended Audience: District Office

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II series

Required Hardware: 48 K, 2 disk drives, 132 column printer

Purpose: This program provides for the computerized management of a district's transportation system. Program capacities include 9999 bus stops with 47 stops per bus route. The user sets up the program by mapping the district into X and Y coordinates for each bus stop. The number of students per stop is also entered. Larger districts may partition the district in half using 2 diskettes and entering negative X and Y coordinates for the other half. Distances between stops may be calculated automatically by the computer using recti-linear calculation of one mile between coordinates, or the user may enter actual distances where the district's street pattern is not recti-linear. The program calculates the most efficient routing of buses based on miles traveled. Outputs include: a listing of bus stops by coordinates; bus route information which includes a description of a stop, number of students, and distances and time information; and, distance information for stops on a route.

Major Strengths: The program's major strength lies in its main purpose--the program provides for an excellent use of the computer over manual methods of bus routing. The documentation is excellent, and although data input is tedious, it is not difficult. An excellent set of outputs are provided which will meet all personnel needs including bus drivers.

Major Weaknesses: Printers (and printer drivers) are not menu-selected, thereby making it difficult for the average user to set up printer control code information for any printer other than Apple.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: FASTBACK Version: 5.1 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Fifth Generation Systems, Inc., 7942 Picardy Ave., #B-350, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Cost: $179 Intended Audience: MS - DOS Hard Disk Users

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200 Also available for: Any MS - DOS hard disk machine

Required Hardware: One floppy disk drive and hard disk drive

Purpose: FASTBACK is a DOS utility that allows the user to back-up a 10 megabyte hard disk drive onto floppy disks in approximately 8 minutes. This product is intended solely for hard disk users as a back-up alternative to using the MS - DOS back-up utility or purchasing a tape back-up system.

Major Strengths: The major strength of FASTBACK is its high rate of speed in backing up even complex hard disk drive structures. With two floppy disk drives a 10 megabyte hard disk drive can be backed up in 8 minutes. FASTBACK also formats the floppy disk while it is backing up the hard disk drive so the floppies do not have to be preformatted. The setup is easy and fast, and the manual is easy and clear to read.

Major Weaknesses: FASTBACK does not look for flaws in floppy diskettes before using them. Also, if a floppy diskette has many severe flaws the FASTBACK program will "bomb out" with a fatal error message thus terminating the entire backup procedure.

Other Comments: FASTBACK is an excellent utility for backing up hard disk drives; it is an good alternative to tape systems and is far better than the DOS utility back-up. The users will experience no problems restoring a hard disk drive after backing it up.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: E
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: F	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: NA
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: NA	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: F	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: NA
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: Keeptrack PLUS Version: 1.2 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Finot Group, 2390 El Camino Real, Suite 3, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Cost: $39 Intended Audience: MS - DOS Hard Disk Users

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200 Also available for: Any MS - DOS Hard Disk Machine

Required Hardware: One floppy disk drive and a hard disk drive

Purpose: Keeptrack is an excellent hard disk utility which allows the user to manage complex hard disk structures and directories. Upon booting Keeptrack , the user is given a pictorial diagram of the tree directory structure on the hard disk drive. The pictorial diagram is in color and shows an extemely clear picture of the directory and sub-directories utilized on the hard disk drive. Keeptrack has many utilities that allows for making directories and sub-directores, removing directories and sub-directories, moving files from one sub-directory to another, copying files, merging files, viewing various hidden files in attributes of programs and files, and it even provides a quick backup and restore utility as well.

Major Strengths: Keeptrack is an excellent DOS utility for hard disk users. It is highly recommended for users who have difficulty dealing with complex directory and path commands involved in MS - DOS utilities. The documentation for the program is quite readable but quite unnecessary since the program is easy to use. There are excellent help windows utilized by Keeptrack, making the program simple to operate.

Major Weaknesses: The program does not have a find command to locate and load a particular file. This weakness prevented a four star rating (****) of this program.

Other Comments: This hard disk utility is highly recommended, especially for those requiring a backup and restore utility.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: F
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: NA
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: NA
Provision for protection of confidential info	: G		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: Meddle Pruf Version: 1.2 Copyright Date: 1983

Producer/Address: Microcomputer Workshops Coursewere, Port Chester, NY 10573

Cost: $49.95 Intended Audience: Computer Science Teachers

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II series

Required Hardware: One or two disk drives, 48 K

Purpose: Meddle Pruf is designed to allow teachers to protect student disks with password security for disks containing BASIC or other program files. Two levels of security are provided: disk encoding and a unique password. Blank disks are used to create protected disk, then programs may be transferred to that disk if desired. Passwords may be changed and diskettes may be unprotected. The program also allows the teacher to view a student's disk, make back-up copies, and discover a student's password.

Major Strengths: Meddle Pruf is very easy to use and provides a valuable service to computer science teachers.

Major Weaknesses: Disk containing text files may be protected, however, they may not be accessed by another program. Therefore, the program is limited for use by computer science teachers only. Surprisingly, the program itself is not protected, therefore, any student with access to Meddle Pruf can use it to gain knowledge of other students' passwords.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Speed of operation	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: NA	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: NA
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: NA	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: NA	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: UTIL Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: Microcomputer Workshop Courseware, Port Chester, NY 10573

Cost: $34.95 Intended Audience: Teachers

Evaluated on: Apple IIE Also available for: Apple II series

Required Hardware: 48 K, one or two disk drives

Purpose: UTIL is a teacher utility program that will perform the following functions: protect disks with a password which also protects them from being copied with COPYA and FID programs; view passwords on protected disks; back up disks; repair unreadable disks with bad CATALOG and VTOC tracks; increases disk storage up to 11 tracks by using CATALOG space; change DOS and error messages; retrieve deleted files whose tracks haven't been reused; fixes incorrect file size counts; changes the name of HELLO programs; and, alphabetizes a CATALOG.

Major Strengths: UTIL provides a good variety of utility programs for its value. It is very easy to use.

Major Weaknesses: Documentation needs greater detail in explaining the utilities to the average computer user. Undefined technical terms would confuse the average teacher. The user may only undelete and change DOS commands and error messages on unprotected disks. Disks may not be unprotected.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: F	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: F
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Speed of operation	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: F	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: NA
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: NA	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: NA
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: NA	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: Windows Version: 1.0 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: MicroSoft Corp., 10700 Northup Way, Box 97200, Bellevue, WA 98009.

Cost: $99 Intended Audience: DOS (all users dealing with MS - DOS)

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200 Also available for: All MS - DOS machines

Required Hardware: In order to use the full potential of MicroSoft's Windows, the recommended hardware configuration is at least 640 K RAM and a hard disk drive. Minimum requirements are 256 K and 2 disk drives.

Purpose: MicroSoft Windows is the first real attempt at providing an alternative interaction between the user and the computer other than the normal MS - DOS operating system. MicroSoft Windows mimics, to a large extent, some of the characteristics of Apple's Macintosh operating system. Windows has outstanding color capabilities and offers most features available in MS - DOS. Windows uses pull-down menus much like those found on Apple's Macintosh computers. The program contains built-in desk top utilities, a word processing program, an excellent draw-paint program, and easy to use DOS features. One of the nicest features of Windows is the ability to have several programs running at the same time and viewing these programs through multiple windows overlaid on top of each other.

Major Strengths: Obviously, Windows' major potential is that it is a real alternative to MS - DOS. The manuals are easily read and understood. The program is menu driven with help windows available at all times. The program encompasses almost all the MS - DOS features plus many more.

Major Weaknesses: Windows' major weakness is that it is extremely dependent upon hardware. With 640 K of RAM, the program will run only half as fast as it does with 1 meg of memory. The program requires so much diskette space that a hard disk drive is almost mandatory.

Other Comments: The capabilities and possibilities of Windows indicates that it will probably become a primary alternative to using MS - DOS. The program is easy to use once the user has spent a fair amount of time learning its capabilities.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: F
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: NA
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Electric Poet Version: 1.0 Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: IBM Corp., P. O. Box 1328-S, Boca Raton, FL 33432

Cost: $75.00 Intended Audience: Teachers and School Administrators

Evaluated on: IBM PC and PC XT Also available for: IBM AT and IBM PC compatibles

Required Hardware: 128 K, one disk drive, color graphics adaptor, color monitor, color printer (optional)

Description: Electric Poet is a unique text and graphics authoring system for the creation of screen or hardcopy presentations of files. Screen presentations may include sound and the movement of text or graphics. This program may be used by teachers to create student tutorials or by teachers, administrators and others to create color transparencies, reports, slides and other visual arts. File size is limited only by the amount of memory available in RAM, and an unlimited number of data disks may be used for storage. Up to 256 color combinations are allowed for the foreground and background of text and graphics.

Major Strengths: The greatest strength in Electric Poet lies in the versatility of file design allowing the user to combine text, graphics, color, music, and movement. Also, animation speeds may be varied and trailing images of moving objects may appear on the screen.

Major Weaknessess: The creation of a file (called a "poem" in the documentation) that includes a great deal of movement is a time-consuming process due to the numerous keystroke repetitions required to animate the screen.

Other Comments: The above weakness may be overcome by using a program such as ProKey or SuperKey which would enable the user to define macro keystrokes to automatically carry out a series of keystroke repetitions.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: Fontasy Version: 1.0 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Prosoft, Box 560, N. Hollywood, CA 91603

Cost: $49.95 Intended Audience: Word Processing and Graphics Users

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200 Also available for: MS - DOS machines

Required Hardware: 128 K with one floppy disk drive

Purpose: Fontasy is a word processing program that allows the user to utilize a multitude of different fonts and graphics within a document. Some school applications of Fontasy might include signs, greeting cards, posters, invitations, newsletters, banners, promotional literature, and many more. The user may choose from up to 28 different fonts (or typestyles), switching fonts upon demand, increasing the size of a word or words, using proportional spacing, kearing, boldface, center justification, and much more. The user can also utilize Fontasy's extremely powerful graphics capability to draw graphics, to zoom in on the graphics, to flip the graphics, and to duplicate them elsewhere in the document. Graphics may be drawn free-hand, with the keyboard or with a mouse, and Fontasy can draw perfect geometric shapes automatically.

Major Strengths: The major strength of Fontasy is its capacity to allow the user a multitude of type faces, sizes, and styles of print. The graphics capability of Fontasy also provides excellent opportunities for individuals to create images and pictures and incorporate them into the text.

Major Weaknesses: The Fontasy manual, while quite complete, is not particularly easy to get along with. The demo is very good and users will need to plan to spend some time using the program before they are able to easily master all of the capabilities of the program.

Other Comments: This will be an excellent choice for users who are seeking to use a personal publisher program. Fontasy also has approximately 250 other fonts that are available to work with Fontasy over and above those supplied with the programs. Fontasy has recently produced a version that utilizes laser printers which makes it an excellent personal publisher in addition to a good word processing program.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record-retrieval capabilities & speed	: NA
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: NA
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: The Graphics Department Version: 2 Copyright Date: 1983

Producer/Address: Sensible Software Inc., 210 S. Woodard, Suite 229
Birmingham, MI 48011

Cost: $124.95 Intended Audience: Administrators & Teachers

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II series

Required Hardware: 48 K, 1 disk drive, compatible printer

Purpose: The Graphics Department consists of 4 main modules that provide for the following: (1) the entering of alphanumeric data for presentation in bar, line, area, scatter, pie, or XY charts. Up to 99 data points are allowed per chart; (2) a variety of fonts and type sizes to add titles and labels to any file; (3) a graphics module allows the user to draw points, lines, rectangles, and ellipses in over 100 colors; (4) a slide presentation allows for a screen show of up to 323 different pictures either manually or automatically--99 frames are permitted for a presentation allowing slides to be re-used, and titles and subtitles may be added to any frame.

Major Strengths: The program is extremely versatile--providing a host of methods to present data. Also, data may be accessed and used in all modules. The ability to produce high quality on-screen or paper-copy of high resolution color graphics can provide teachers and administrators numerous professional applications. Built-in printer compatibility (for dot matrix and letter quality printers) and printer interface cards are available for most all popular brand names. The program plots charts and draws at a very fast rate. Apple II mouse compatibility is built-in which makes it easier and faster to draw.

Major Weaknesses: The program is somewhat difficult to master--more on-screen help would be useful. Since the program's modules are on 3 disks a good deal of disk swapping may be encountered. The use of a hard disk drive would be more practical.

Other Comments: The Graphics Department is one of the best graphics programs available for the Apple II series of computers and for the price provides a wider variety of applications than most other graphics programs.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: E
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: July 1985

Title: Homeword Version: Non-integrated Copyright Date: 1983

Producer/Address: Sierra-On Line Inc., Sierra On-Line Building, Coarsegold, CA 93614
Supplier: South-Western Publishing Co, 5101 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45227

Cost: $59.95 Intended Audience: Word Processing environments

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II, II+

Required Hardware: 48K, 1 disk drive

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: Homeword is an easy to use word processor that comes with an audio tutorial, one program disk, and a manual. It lacks some of the formatting options of more sophisticated word processors, but it is adequate to meet the needs of most any teacher, especially as a tool to teach beginning word processing. Unlimited data diskettes may be used for storing files, and file size is limited only be the amount of available memory. Screen displays of text is in 40 columns only, but output in 80 columns may be viewed on the screen or may be sent to the printer. The program is menu driven through the use of icons at the bottom of the screen. Each icon takes the user to another icon menu for page formatting, printer, storage, and editing options. Customizing and disk utility icons are also available for system configurations, disk formatting, and similar tasks. One interesting feature resides at the bottom right of the screen--as the user types in text, a miniatruization of the page appears which enables the user to visualize the entire page layout.

Major Strengths: The documentation is easy to read and concise. A quick look at the documentation is all that is needed since the user basically has all of the information needed by using the icon menus.

Major Weaknesses: Use is somewhat slow and there is some icon/screen movement when moving through the icon menus, but this isn't too distracting. This program is not suitable for a sophisticated word processing environment as certain formatting options are not available, such as, superscripts and subscripts, and outdenting.

Other Comments: The program entitled Homeword Speller (evaluated in this publication) is a spelling checker for Homeword. It is available through a separate program or can be purchased as an integrated package with the Homeword program.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: July 1985

Title: Homeword Speller Version: Non-integrated Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: Sierra On-Line, Sierra On-Line Building, Coersegold, CA 93614
Supplier: South-Western Publishing Co., 5101 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45227

Cost: $39.95 Intended Audience: Users of certain word processing programs

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: All Apple II series

Required Hardware: 64K, one or two disk drives, 80 column printer (optional)

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: This spelling checker is designed to check the spelling of ASCII text files. It is compatible with files produced with Homeword, Apple Writer II and IIe, Screenwriter II, and Bankstreet Writer. The package comes with one program diskette, a manual, and an audio tutorial cassette. Homeword Speller has a dictionary of 28,000 words and the user may add up to 5,000 more words to the dictionary. As with the Homeword word processing program (evaluated in this publication), Homeword Speller is menu-driven through the use of icons that appear at the bottom of the screen. The program will catalog the files on a disk one at a time, and when the file in which you want to check the spelling appears on the screen, you simply press return. Spelling is checked with good speed and then your text appears on the screen with the misspelled words highlighted. You may choose to replace a word with the correct spelling, leave the word as it is, and place your word in the dictionary. The user may also ask the speller to check the spelling of certain words by using wild card characters to substitute for unknown letters in a word. You may receive outputs of your corrected file and printouts of all or part of the dictionary.

Major Strengths: The documentation is easy to read and use, and the program is easy to learn and use. Another strength is the program's integration with ASCII text files produced by other word processing programs. Being able to place a new word into the dictionary while you are editing text is a big advantage when compared to other spelling checkers.

Major Weaknesses: The number of words in the dictionary is relatively small.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: September 1985

Title: Magic Slate Version: 1.02 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Sunburst Communications, Inc., 39 Washington Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10540

Cost: $89.95 Intended Audience: Word Processing Environments

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also Available for: Apple II Plus, IIc

Required Hardware: 48 K, one disk drive, printer

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: Magic Slate is a word processing program that may be used in a 20-, 40-, or 80-column format. Only the 20- and 40-column versions were sent to us for evaluation. These versions are marketed for classroom use and instruction, and although it is suitable for office administration uses, the 40-column screen display would become a nuisance. The program is ICON menu-driven, with window help menus available during text editing. Editing commands are consistent in both the 20- and 40-column format (and we expect the 80-column format would be the same). Editing is easy and the program makes full use of the Apple IIe keyboard (TAB, arrow keys, etc.). The user is given adequate page format options, and output may be sent to the screen or to the printer.

Major Strengths: For the price, Magic Slate is one of the most powerful, flexible word processing programs marketed for classroom use. The large 20-column format provides easy-to-read characters for lower elementary school students. The manual contains suggestions for instructional activities for both the 20- and 40-column format, and it includes a well-written student manual. Overall, the documentation is excellent--concise and well organized (although an index would be helpful). All of the expected text editing features are included, as well as some features not usually found in a word processor at this price: a variety of type styles such as boldface, italics and superscripts are available in the 40-column format (only the underline feature is available in 20-column format); block text operations allow the user to copy, move or delete large sections of text; and mark text operations are available to move or delete words, sentences, or larger sections of text.

Major Weaknesses: The program supports a limited number of printers. Although the user is given a choice of configurations, a proper printer and interface card combination is required to print typestyles other than plain text.

Other Comments: Although the user is not permitted to copy Magic Slate, Sunburst permits the program to; be used on multiple computers. Once the program is booted, a student data disk is all that is needed.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*

Title Magic Window II Version _____ Copyright Date 1982

Producer/Address Artsci Inc., 5547 Satsuma Avenue, N. Hollywood, CA 91601

Cost $149.95 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience Home, School, Business

Purpose/Applications of Package Word Processing

Required Hardware 48K Apple II or IIe

Required Software DOS 3.3. (2) program disks, data disks

Product Capacities Length of files not defined; 40, 70, or 80 column displays available.

Service Support 90-day free replacement on defective material with $20 charge after 90 days; discounts available on product updates.

Description of Product Outputs Video or hard copy text output

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
	X			Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
X				Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
	X			Record retrieval capabilities and speed
	X			Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
X				Capacity for intended applications
				Availability of user-defined fields
	X			Editing capabilities for each field
X				Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
	X			Legibility of outputs and ease of use
X				Ease of learning and usage
X				Freedom from technical problems
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Good documentation - easy to read and follow for beginners; Comprehensive and easy to use menu structure.

Major Weaknesses No footnote capability.

Other Comments Documentation could use more sample outputs.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary*
Date of Evaluation: SEPTEMBER 1984

Title MAGIC WORDS Version _____ Copyright Date 1981

Producer/Address ARTSCI Inc., 5547 Satsuma Ave., N. Hollywood, CA 91601

Cost $69.95 Medium of Transfer Diskette Intended Audience General Business/Home Use

Purpose/Applications of Package Spelling Checker for Magic Window II and other binary (BLOAD) files: Acewriter I & II, Applewriter I, Superscribe II, Supertext II, Easywriter.

Evaluated on Apple II+ Also available for Apple II, IIe

Required Hardware 48K (64 recommended); 1 disk drive Required Software Program Complete

Product Capacities 14000 word dictionary at 1600 words per minute checked; may create personal dictionaries.

Service Support 90-day free replacement warranty; 91 days to 1 year, there is a $20 service charge; discounts on updates; $20 for multiple back-ups.

Description of Product Outputs Screen or hard copy of spelling errors giving page and line number of error; from zero to 125 characters of text surrounding error may be displayed; copy of text with marked errors.

Evaluation Summary

E	G	F	P	E-Excellent G-Good F-Fair P-Poor
	X			Adequacy of documentation in assisting the user
X				Documentation prose, clarity and conciseness
	X			Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions
NA				Record retrieval capabilities and speed
NA				Error handling capacities plus counter-measure instructions
	X			Capacity for intended applications
X				Availability of user-defined fields
X				Editing capabilities for each field
X				Availability of options for screen and hard copy output
X				Appropriateness of outputs for intended use
X				Legibility of outputs and ease of use
X				Ease of learning and usage
	X			Freedom from technical problems
X				Program flexibility to meet local needs
			X	Provision for protection of confidential information

Major Strengths Ease of learning and use especially if integrated with MAGIC WINDOW II; Good documentation; speed of spelling checked; ability to create dictionaries of words commonly used for particular need.

Major Weaknesses Program allows user to make corrections in an unmarked error file which does not save corrections - no warning is given.

Other Comments Highly recommended.

*Summary evaluation based on evaluations of three or more reviewers.

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Newsroom Copyright Date: 1984

Producer/Address: Springboard Software, 7807 Creekridge Cr., Minneapolis, MN 55435

Cost: $49.95 Intended Audience: School News Staff

Evaluated on: Apple IIe Also available for: Apple II series, IBM PC, PC JR, IBM compatibles, Commodore 64

Required Hardware: 48 K, one disk drive, printer

Description: Newsroom is designed to create newspapers, posters, newsletters, circulars, etc. It is primarily marketed to the staff of school newspapers as a learning and application tool. The user begins by designing a "masthead" using graphics and text. Then photos may be selected from the predesigned graphics or the user may design new graphics (similar to MacPaint). These photos are placed anywhere on a panel and text may then be entered around the photos. Text is available in 5 fonts of varying sizes. Panels are approximately 3 1/2 x 2 1/2 inches when printed and may be placed on a page in any order. These can be subsequently saved as a page for future printing. For computers equipped with telecommunications capabilities, Newsroom comes with a communications routine. Unlimited data disks my be used. In addition to the program disk the user is provided a clip art disk containing approximately 600 graphics.

Major Strengths: Newsroom is an excellent learning tool for students interested in the basic mechanics and publishing of a newspaper. Much of the documentation is devoted to teaching journalistic techniques required for newspaper publishing.

Major Weaknessess: The final product, while attractive copy, does not have a typeset finish and does not use real photographs. Therefore, this program would not be recommended for sophisticated secondary school newspapers. Although much of the operations work at acceptable speeds, the photo work area (graphics design mode) is very slow.

Other Comments: A supplemental program, Clip Art Volume I, containing additional graphics may be purchased for $29.95.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: F
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: NA	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: F	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: G	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: PowerText Version: 2.1 Copyright Date: 1982

Producer/Address: Beaman Porter Inc., 417 Halstead Ave., Harrison, NY 10528

Cost: $399 Intended Audience: School office or classroom use

Evaluated on: IBM - PC/XT Also available for: IBM - PC and compatibles

Required Hardware: 128 K, two double-sided disk drives

Purpose: Powertext is a comprehensive word processing program with many extra features not found in a typical word processor. These unique capabilities include such features as: the ability to write and format screenplays in either one or two columns; horizontal borders of any character to fill whole lines; box text anywhere on the screen to highlight text; insert other files anywhere in a document; keywords used to automatically enter headers, footers, salutations, closings in letters; ability to create template files for later use; automatic centered columns; tables of contents; outlining; and, footnoting.

Major Strengths: This is an extremely powerful program which can be used to meet the word processing needs of a school office. In addition, its screenplay and formatting capabilities make this a very useful program for high school drama and language arts classes.

Major Weaknesses: Powertext has so many options and commands that it would take the average computer user a great deal of practice to master. In addition, the documentation, although complete, is not written for a novice computer user. A lot of experimentation with the various commands would be required to fully understand their potential.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: F	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: G	Speed of operation	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: F
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Print Master Version: 1.1 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Unison World Inc., 2150 Shattock Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704

Cost: $59.95 Intended Audience: Teachers and Administrators

Evaluated on: IBM PC Also available for: PC JR. and IBM compatibles, Commodore 64, CP/M.

Required Hardware: 128 K, one disk drive, printer, color ribbons(optional)

Description: Print Master is a text and graphics program enabling the user to personalize greeting cards, signs, stationery, calenders, and banners. There are 111 pre-designed graphics from which to choose, and in addition, the user may obtain added pre-designed graphics by purchasing ART GALLERY I for $39.95. The graphics may be printed small, medium, or large with up to 11 different patterns on a page. In addition, the greeting card, sign etc., may be bordred with one of 11 pre-designed borders. Text may be entered in one of 8 different fonts which may be printed in either solid, outline, or 3D form and in either large or small print. Print Master also contains a graphic editor which allows the user to create and save new graphics or edit existing graphics.

Major Strengths: The main strength of Print Master is the numerous applications for schools: bulletins home; signs for the classroom, office, or hallways; banners for sports events, or science fairs, and the like. Unlike Print Shop (Print Master's major competitor), Print Master allows the user to view a creation prior to printing, and incorporates a graphics editor for user-designed graphics. Print Master is flexible, versatile, easy, and fun to use.

Major Weaknessess: The user must scan through the graphic patterns each time to choose a graphic rather than simply entering the name or number of a graphic. Additionally, a greater variety of borders and fonts would be useful.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined graphics	: F	Fditing capabilities	: G
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: G	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: Random House Reference Set Version: 1.1 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Reference Software, Inc., 2363 Boulevard Cr., Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Cost: $69 Intended Audience: Word Processer Users

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200 Also available for: MS - DOS machines

Required Hardware: MS - DOS computer with one floppy drive (hard disk preferred)

Purpose: The Random House Reference Set is an excellent spelling checker and thesarus which is compatible with almost any word processer available on the market. The dictionary has either 50,000 words (for 116K minimum) or 80,000 words (for 186K minimum) depending on the version the user selects at setup time, and the thesarus has 50,000 words keyed to approximately 5,000 words. The program is supplied on two floppy disks.

Major Strengths: The dictionary is very comprehensive with excellent ELY, LY and S endings. It is very easy to use. It will check an entire document, highlight a misspelled word, and then provide the user with a list of possible correct spellings.

Major Weaknesses: The words in the thesarus are not cross-referenced and since the thesarus is keyed to only 5,000 words, the user will find many words not contained within it.

Other Comments: This is an excellent spelling checker and thesarus program which is extremely easy to use and is compatible with almost all word processors on MS - DOS machines.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: G
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: NA
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: NA	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: NA
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ***

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: June 1986

Title: Turbo Lightning Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Borland International Inc., 4585 Scotts Valley Dr., Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Cost: $99.95 Intended Audience: Word Processing Users

Evaluated on: Tandy 1200 Also available for: MS - DOS machines

Required Hardware: One disk drive

Purpose: Turbo Lightning is an extremely fast dictionary and thesaurus. The current version contains the Random House Concise Dictionary and Thesaurus. The program is loaded into RAM memory and remains resident while the user works on a word processing text. The program can be set to check every single word as the user types it in, or it can be set to check a word or a full screen at some later time.

Major Strengths: The dictionary is quite complete and contains most S, ELY, and LY endings of most common words. It seems to work instantaneously -- as the user incorrectly spells a word, the program will "beep" (which can be turned off) and indicate a series of possible correct spellings. Words may be added to an auxillary dictionary.

Major Weaknesses: The limitations of the thesarus is the major weakness of the program. It contains only 5,000 key words for which 50,000 synonyms are provided. It does not check a whole document--only single words or one screen of text.

Other Comments: Turbo Lightning has fantastic potential for accessing data from extremely large data bases. While the current program only utilizes the Random House Concise Dictionary and Thesarus, future uses may include encyclopedias or other large data sources.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: E
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities for each field	: NA
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: NA	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: NA		

Rating ****

MSU Software Evaluation Clearinghouse
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: September 1985

Title: V-Spell Version: 1.06 Copyright Date: 1983

Producer/Address: CompuView Products Inc., 1955 Pauline Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Cost: $125.00 Intended Audience: Users of Word Processors

Evaluated On: IBM PC, Zenith 151 Also Available For: MSDOS, PCDOS, CP/M80 AND CP/M86 MACHINES

Required Hardware: 2 disk drives

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: V-Spell is a spelling checker that is compatible with files produced by a variety of word processors. It has a main dictionary of 60,000 words and a supplemental dictionary which is created by the user. The user may place V-Spell in drive 2 and check the spelling of a file in drive 1 against the words in both dictionaries. The program then shows up to 20 lines of text around each word it did not find in the 2 dictionaries. The user may correct the spelling immediately, have the program list up to 60 possible spellings, ignore the word, add it to the supplemental dictionary, or mark it for subsequent reference. Additional features include looking up any word in the main dictionary, the use of "wild card" look-ups, and hyphenation help. The user may also ask for the entire document to be written with soft hyphenations.

Major Strengths: The user may modify the program to some degree. For instance, as the user becomes more expert with V-Spell, he/she may turn off redundant questioning such as, "Do you really want to do this?". The user may also change such features as the character for marking text, screen height and width, and the number of lines of text in which errors are displayed in context. The supplemental dictionary may be merged with the main dictionary to increase the speed of operation, and additional supplemental dictionaries may be created. Overall, V-Spell offers some interesting features not found in most spelling checkers.

Major Weaknesses: V-Spell does not work with files created by some word processing programs. The evaluators could not get V-Spell to work with Multimate, Open Access, Displaywriter, or Easywriter I. The documentation does not specify with which programs V-Spell will work.

Other Comments: V-Spell was tested successfully with Bank Street Writer, IBM Writing Assistant, T/Maker, Wordstar, and Samna III. It also worked with Wordperfect after some modification to V-Spell. The potential buyer is advised to obtain assurances that V-Spell will work with a particular word processor prior to purchase. Version 1.06 is now available. Reduced prices may be obtained for multiple copies.

EVALUATION SUMMARY
E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: G	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven and adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities and speed	: F
Error-handling and counter-measure instructions	: G	Capacity for intended applications	: G
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: E
Availability of options for screen and hard copy	: NA	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: G
Legibility of outputs and ease of use	: G	Ease of learning and usage	: E
Freedom from technical problems	: G	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: G
Provision for protection of confidential info.	: NA		

RATING * * * 11 80

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: July 1985

Title: WordPerfect Version: 4.0

Producer/Address: SSI Software, 288 W. Center Street
Orem, UT 84057

Cost: $495 Intended Audience: All word processing environments

Evaluated on: Tandy 1000 and IBM PC Also available for: All MSDOS Systems

Required Hardware: 192K RAM, 2 disk drives, most any printer (Serial or parallel)

Purpose/Applications/Capabilities/Outputs of Product: WordPerfect is a comprehensive word processor that also includes a 100,000 word spelling dictionary to which may be added additional words or special user dictionary files. The program comes with 2 program disks, a spelling checker, quick reference guide, installation manual, a template for IBM function keys, and voluminous documentation. File size is limited only by disk space and available RAM. Outputs include screen or hard copy of: text files, mail labels, envelopes, lists, indexes, table of contents, merged files, and calculated math tables. Technical hotline and assistance is one of the best.

Major Strengths: To list but a few, 1) up to 5 columns for newsletter format 2) macro commands easy to use 3) footnotes and endnotes 4) unlimited file merges 5) prints different margins on odd/even pages for binding 6) outline feature with automatic numbering in outline 7) creates table of contents, indices and other lists with automatic number of correct pages 8) math functions for subtotals, totals and grand totals in column form 9) the documentation is fantastic 10) uses the 10 function keys in 40 different ways.

Major Weaknesses: This program has no major weaknesses. Minor weaknesses: 1) no split screen 2) somewhat slow scrolling 3) no help section in manual.

Other Comments: Other ASCII files can be captured and formatted to use WordPerfect commands.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: E	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: G
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: NA	Editing capabilities	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: E	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: E
Provision for protection of confidential info	: G		

Rating ****

MSU SOFTWARE EVALUATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Administrative Evaluation Summary
Date of Evaluation: March 1986

Title: Early Childhood System, Project MEMPHIS Version: 1.2 Copyright Date: 1985

Producer/Address: Easter Seal System, National Easter Seal Society, 2023 West Ogden Ave., Chicago, IL 60612

Cost: $495.00 (Computer and non-computer version included)
$200.00 per year for technical support and updates (optional)

Intended Audience: Early Childhood Educators and Behavioral Scientists Evaluated on: Apple IIe

Required Hardware: Apple IIe, 5 Megabyte, Profile Hard Disk, Printer

Description: The Project MEMPHIS Model is an educational system based on tasks arranged in order from birth to thirty-six months in five areas of normal human growth and development. These areas are: gross motor, fine motor, personal-social, language and perceptuo-cognitive. The user is able to accomplish a developmental evaluation, plan the program, and implement the program with the curriculum provided. The program may be used with normal infants and early childhood education programs as well as with those for exceptional children and older children who show severe developmental delay. The computerized program provides an evaluation, intervention, and tracking system which includes assessment of the present status and the developmental progress with complete Individualized Habilitation Plans and the comparisons of progress of individual clients. The program manages up to 1000 students, but realistically manages 500 at a satisfactory speed of operation.

Major Strengths: A complete reporting system that may be reviewed on the screen or printed out that includes the following reports: (1) Individualized Habilitation Plans; (2) Habilitation program and accountability records for educational and developmental gain; (3) Developmental scales for any individual that is still functional between birth and thirty-six months; (4) Master client record front sheet; (5) Calculation of a statistical summary for a specific evaluation and comparisons; (6) Evaluation summary printout; and (7) Printout of a charting sheet for recording progress on a child's individual objectives in each developmental area.

Major Weaknessess: If a school system wanted to add their own required reports to the child's computer program this system in its present form will not meet this requirement. These types of reports may include such things as: medical, speech, psychological, O.T., P.T., etc. There is at present an attempt to add these features in future revisions.

Other Comments: This complete system allows a school system to be accountable for the developmental progress of an individual from the entering point of the program until exit. It also allows for storage of all individual records over a long period of time for comparison of teaching methodology as well as the evaluation process.

EVALUATION SUMMARY
E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor NA=Not Applicable

Documentation adequacy in assisting the user	: E	Documentation prose, clarity & conciseness	: E
Menu-driven & adequacy of instructions	: F	Record retrieval capabilities & speed	: E
Error handling & counter-measure instructions	: E	Capacity for intended applications	: E
Availability of user-defined fields	: P	Editing capabilities for each field	: E
Availability of options for screen & hard copy	: F	Appropriateness of outputs for intended use	: E
Legibility of outputs & ease of use	: E	Ease of learning & usage	: G
Freedom from technical problems	: E	Program flexibility to meet local needs	: F
Provision for protection of confidential info	: P		

Rating ****